

# CRIME INCREASE IS DUE TO LAXITY HOME DISCIPLINE

So Says Prison Supt. Geo. Ross Pou in Article By Well Known Writer

## PUNISHMENT IS CHANGING

BION H. BUTLER

One day when Abraham Lincoln was a practicing lawyer in Springfield, Ill., he went into the jail to see a prisoner who had been a client. In their talk the man remarked that the two of them had probably been in every jail in the country. Lincoln protested that except for this jail and one down in Sangamon he had never been in all the rest. "Well, I have been in all the rest," said the prisoner, "which makes the statement correct." Possibly I have been in more jails and penitentiaries than any other man I know. The range runs from California to the Atlantic states, with a pretty fair smattering in between. So when I dropped in to Raleigh prison the other day it was no new thing. It was merely another page in that great problem story that commenced the day Cain slew his brother Abel and went forth among men with a brand on his brow that all who saw him might be made aware that he had sinned.

The prison is perhaps the most tragic manifestation of the relations between man and man. It is the authority that law assumes over individual privilege. It goes so far as to take life, or to segregate men from their fellows and to deal with them as harshly as occasion seems to justify. It is the evolution, after long years and ages of war on that thing we call crime, of a scheme to punish men for crime. Formerly individual dealt with individual. Moses laid down the law, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Modern practice has fixed different penalties, detention and punishment, but detention is a more modern consideration than punishment. Punishment is losing some of its emphasis as the idea of salvaging is becoming more pronounced. Today it is the aim of the penal institutions to help the prisoners to gain a new slant on life, and to be more observant of the law that defines how far one man may encroach on what another regards as his rights. A modern prison is a penal institution. It is a school, a training station, a red flag to warn men that they may not walk along certain paths without encountering a penalty that laws have fixed. Yet it is a problem, and men are divided as to the methods that should be followed in carrying on the penal institutions.

In May, 1921, the State Prison had but 729 inmates. George Ross Pou says that by May 1928, the population will be about 1,900. It was 1,872 at the first of April and increasing daily. Four years ago the prison population was 1,240. Two years ago 1,486. It is increasing now at the rate of more than 200 a year. This big increase is presenting to the State a complex proposition, for constantly more facilities are required for caring for this large number of people who must be cared for under peculiar conditions. Offenses against the law are increasing with shocking swiftness, yet not as swiftly as new laws are made by legislation to be broken. Nobody knows the laws any more, and not many persons are interested any longer in caring what all the laws are. Yet Mr. Pou says that he ascribes much of the increase in prison population to the breaking down of home relation and discipline and attachments. About 67 per cent of the prisoners received are under 30 years of age. One-fourth of all are under 20 years. About 10 per cent are over 40. It is the young people who are filling the prison. Laborers constitute the large majority—about 65 per cent.

Farmers offer 15 per cent. The other 20 per cent comes from 54 different callings. Only three per cent had finished the third year in high school. One-third cannot read and write. Eighty per cent used whiskey. Nearly 80 per cent arriving were convicted for the first time and 14 per cent for the second time. This shows again that the prison is a young man's game. Half were married. Two thirds had never attended school or never finished as far as second grade. Two-thirds had attended church and Sunday school before coming to prison.

Farmers offer 15 per cent of the arrivals. That is emphatically low in a state as largely agricultural as this. Laborers more than four times as many. Five white to three negroes is about the way the proportions are running now. It was formerly one white to three negroes. And the figures get us to this conclusion. The sons of white men, boys with little home restraint, boys not in school, boys with little instruction in trades, or skill in work, boys who are given to liquor and to little contact with the uplifting influences, afford the recruits for Mr. Pou's training school.

I doubt if any man of an inquiring turn of mind can go to the correctional institutions of the State as I have been doing the last few weeks and not be impressed with the tremendous work the institutions are doing. My visit to the Morrison school for colored boys gives me a big insight into the problems of the penitentiary. The Morrison school is taking boys who might have been graduates for the Raleigh higher-up institution had not the Morrison school grabbed them out of their indifferent habits and their undesirable surroundings and set them on a more profitable road. I anticipate the same conclusions, when I get around to Concord and Rocky Mount, and I am thoroughly impressed with the training school, and satisfied that these lower institutions are taking care of a vast amount of work that without them would have been left for Mr. Pou's school, for the truth is that he is trying to take up the work of training those who come to his hands, although at a time in the lives of many of them when their habits for more rigidly fixed than is desirable.

It is not to be imagined that the prison has merely a corrective work on its hands. It is only lately that North Carolina, along with other states, has begun the sociological studies that are resulting in a changing attitude toward all delinquents and perversions. A number of the prisoners brought to the State Prison in the past were mentally defective, and now under wise legislation they are classified as criminal insane. They are in a class that requires much different handling than the sane offenders. So provision is made for them in separate quarters. They are insane, and must be handled with regard for their mental affliction. Another limited number is of the type that might be called criminal perverts, or persons with criminal instincts. These are not many. They are about as helpless as the insane as far as salvaging them is concerned, and they constitute a serious problem of the prison. One man place or another some 45 years. He confesses that he does not know why he proceeds to offend and get in jail again after he has served one sentence, but he comes back after a brief duration outside. I knew a similar case in Pennsylvania. I heard the story of a man of 70 there as I was locked in the cell with him, and he told me that over 50 years of his life had been spent in jails and penitentiaries from Michigan to West Virginia and New York for the one offense of stealing horses. "Yet I never had any more use for a horse than for a locomotive, and never got away with one for more than a few days or weeks," he told me, "and always got back into jail. And I am going to be convicted for stealing the horse that got me in here now, for it is as plain as the lock on the door there that I stole it, and if I live to serve the sentence I will prob-

ably steal another one. And why, I have wondered many a time."

But the prison problem is not these in the prison has been in custody one peculiar few. It is the large proportion of the men who are fairly normal who come for the first time, and most of them come for one class of offenses—stealing. The March commitments show that of 87 persons arriving at the prison 59 came because of a mistake in the ownership of property, that distinction between whether it is mine or thine. Larceny, robbery, housebreaking, receiving stolen goods, stealing cars, burglary, highway robbery, breaking and entering, and the other forms which larceny can take. Our prisons seem to be crowded largely because of a disregard by our young people for the property rights of others. And it is decidedly a grave situation.

Mr. Pou classifies his people in three grades, A, B, and C. C is the bottom grade, and includes those who are not very hopeful of making into good citizens. It includes those who are not of the highest type mentally, and more inclined to infractions of the law. The grade includes probably 15 per cent of the prison population. Grade B is the largest in numbers. More than half the prisoners are in B. This is the type that is content to drag along with the crowd, showing little ambition to rise, and slight tendency to fall. Nearly a third of the whole number is in Grade A, and these are the hope of the movement. They have shown inclination to walk straight, and have been given privileges that show approval of their efforts. Stripes are taken off of them, they are not kept behind locked doors, and are treated more as employees than as men detained unwillingly. One-third of the white males are trustees, and one-fifth of the colored males. They work with very little supervision except as to the character of their work, just as freeman have the oversight of their foremen.

Mr. Pou says the policy of the prison is to impress on the prisoners that they can find a better course in life, and serve themselves to more profitable end by taking a helpful place in society when they go out into the world again. He undertakes to make the institution more or less of a training school for those who by accident, intent or environment have come under his care. He makes it plain that they come to him through no desire of his, but through their own contact with the law, that they owe a debt to society for their infraction, and are here to pay it. He tries to show them that the State wants to help them to be useful citizens, and that while the State temporarily takes their liberty it is not taking anything else from them. The new arrival is treated like a man, and an effort is made to establish the man's confidence in his ability to mix with other men again, and to make a place for himself by proper action. "We don't want a man to go away from here with the idea in his head that he is going back to get even with society for sending him to prison," said Mr. Pou. "We try to show him that what he got he earned for himself, and that he must forget the past, and live for a better future."

That is the basis for the large number of 700 men in the four honor camps, two for whites and two for blacks, where one employe to see that the men check in at night is the sole force of guards, and where escapes are far lower than among the men who still wear the stripes. "That seven hundred is a good salvage," Mr. Pou thinks, "and if we could not send back to their homes more than half a dozen men to follow right courses it would be worth the effort," said the Superintendent. And there is the thing that impressed me with the work the State Prison is doing. George Ross Pou is seeing the problem that confronts in State of North Carolina in the attitude men are taking toward law, and he is making a good record in putting the men in his charge on a better understanding as to what laws mean in the relation of man to man. So he tries to teach men to do useful things. He attempts to familiarize them with efficient work, and with sound ideas of accomplishment, and of the worth of applied effort, of production of things that have value, of the use of their time, and of the solid things that enter into fair contracts of men with men and of the processes that bring justified successes. He aims to secure the benefits of that discipline which permits a man to govern himself, of work which breeds dependable habits and of that self-respect which enables a man to believe in himself. It may sound somewhat sentimental, but his honor roll of 700 men is evidence that his plans are working. Flogging men is no longer a method of improvement in the prison, Mr. Pou tells me. He has found other ways of correcting insubordination. He has his problem. That C grade is

almost hopeless. But the B grade is hopeful if neutral, while the A grade is salvation.

Two big farms, one for whites and one for blacks, afford employment and occupation for many of the prisoners. Camps at a dozen or so points employ others. The prison shops, including printery, mattress works, culvert factory, tailor shop, etc., occupy others. In all about 80 per cent of the population are at work in revenue producing occupations, and the prison is self-supporting, and more. Yet to keep the men employed is a part of the problem. Much opposition is felt from various sources toward nearly anything the men are engaged in. But if a man is to be brought back to safe footing in society he must be permitted to be a worker and not a parasitic loafer denied the right to share in the world's daily tasks, and he must be allowed to learn how to work efficiently and with profit.

The prisons are not a charge on the tax payers. They constitute a wholly different problem than that of supporting them from the public purse. They are paying their own way, and to my notion the State Penitentiary is one of the most valuable training schools in the State. It works with a peculiar clientele, not necessarily a bad type, although a proportion of its population is delinquent and some of it degenerate, but when we remember that of the total number received only 20 per cent have come the second time the work is evidently succeeding. When four out of five go back home and walk straight the test is pretty high. Our prison is a problem, a grave one, or represents the outcome of a grave problem, but it seems to be doing what it is designed for, and to me it deserves much more help from the people than it gets—not in money for it is self-supporting, but in understanding and in cordial moral support that is uplifting

influence may be much more positive and emphatic.

The female population in the prison is insignificantly small, about one in 25, and nearly all are in the honor class.

My judgment is that our State has a far better type of prisoners than the industrial states with big cities, for the character of their crimes does not have the finger marks of the studied and confirmed criminal. We are not in the Chicago or New York class by any means. I imagine that the majority of Mr. Pou's graduates will make good citizens, and that they are entitled to the backing of the home folks when they return to their old communities. Only one out of five comes again to the prison. The other four, making good in spite of the handicap, deserve a lot of encouragement, and prove that they have much good in them.

Velvet beans, planted in corn rows will add \$14 worth of plant food per acre at a cost of only fifty cents.

# Treat Colds 2 Ways



With One Treatment

RUBBED on throat and chest, Vicks does two things at once:

- (1) It is vaporized by the body heat and inhaled direct to the inflamed air passages, and
- (2) It stimulates the skin like an old-fashioned poultice and "draws out" the soreness.

# VICKS

21 VAPORUB  
OVER 17 MILLION JARS USED YEARLY

## Don't Let Mosquitoes Bite—Kill Them

—and keep them away. Bee Brand Insect Powder or Liquid kills Flies, Ants, Roaches, Poultry Lice, Mosquitoes, Fleas, Bed Bugs, and other insects. Won't spot or stain. Use powder on plants and pets. Write us for FREE insect booklet. If dealer can't supply, we will ship by parcel post at prices named. McCORMICK & CO., Baltimore, Md.

BEE BRAND	
Powder	Liquid
10c & 25c	50c & 75c
50c & \$1.00	\$1.25
30c (Spray Gun)	35c

**Bee Brand**  
**INSECT POWDER**  
**OR LIQUID**  
CEDAR ODOR

# Protect Your Investment in Your Model T Ford

THE Ford Motor Company is making a new car, but it is still proud of the Model T. It wants every owner of one of these cars to run it as long as possible at a minimum of expense.

Because of this policy and because of the investment that millions of motorists have in Model T cars, the Ford Motor Company will continue to make parts until, as Henry Ford himself says, "the last Model T is off the road."

More than eight million Model T Fords are still in active service, and many of them can be driven for two, three and five years and even longer.

So that you may get the greatest use over the longest period of time at the lowest cost, we suggest that you take your Model T Ford to the nearest Ford dealer and have him give you an estimate on the cost of any replacement parts that may be necessary.

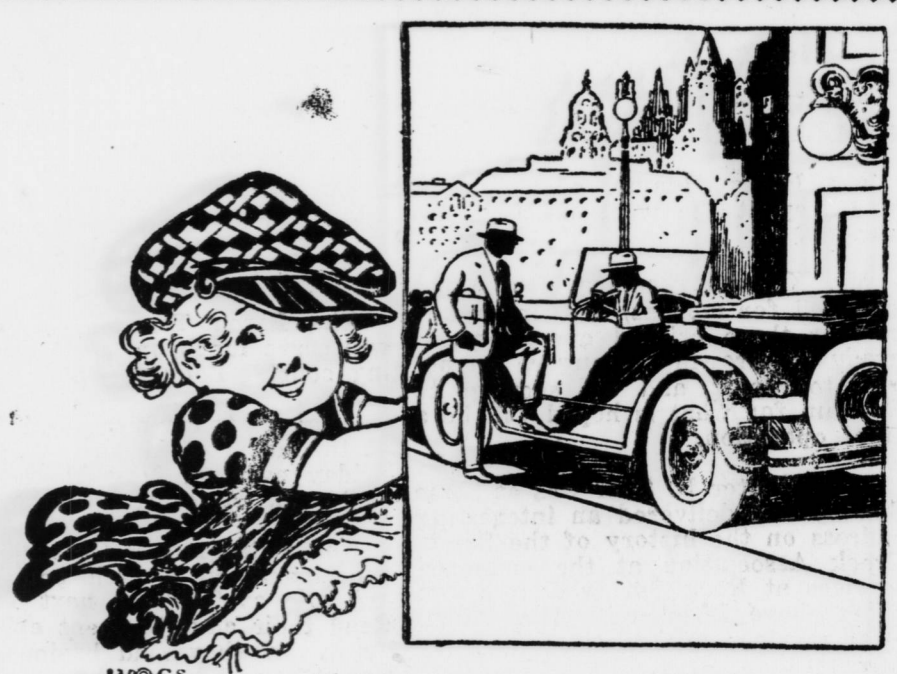
You will find this the economical thing to do because a small expenditure may enable you to maintain or increase the value of the car and give you thousands of miles of additional service.

No matter where you live you can get these Ford parts at the same low prices as formerly and know they are made in the same way and of the same materials as those from which your car was originally assembled.

Labor cost is reasonable and a standard rate is charged for each operation so that you may know in advance exactly how much the complete job will cost.



**FORD MOTOR COMPANY**  
Detroit, Michigan



## Save Time

Men who use and need their cars to transact their daily business, SAVE TIME and SAVE MONEY by having us inspect their car OFTEN.

This way they always know their car is in A-1 condition and that they can depend on it.

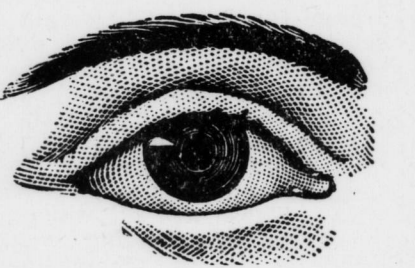
Our CHARGES are LOW.

Let US care for YOUR car.

**Weeks Motor Co.**  
"Trade With Us"  
Pittsboro, North Carolina

## DR. J. C. MANN

the well-known  
EYESIGHT SPECIALIST



will be at Dr. Farrell's office, Pittsboro, Tuesday May 22, and at Dr. Thomas' Office, Siler City Thursday, May 24, from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m.