

North Carolina's School For Criminals

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Four Philadelphia youths were returned to Raleigh Tuesday from Lee county prison camp by a detective and an officer to face the charge of larceny of an automobile last November. They had just completed 30-day terms for larceny. Two of them are 15 years old and the others are 17. Go to almost any road camp in the state and one will see more boys and young men than older ones.

Something is very wrong with this state's preparing its youth for good citizenship. After 30 days in the primary department of Carolina's School for Criminals, these boys are to be promoted to the next grade and thrown directly into the company of hardened criminals. Working, eating, resting, and engaged with the experiences and philosophy of low ideals and wicked ways. The state offers them nothing but a stone for bread. Reformation is lost in the prison and profit from their misfortune. If the prisoner conducts himself orderly and works well, his commonwealth asks no more of him. Its attitude is largely impermanent. It is dealing with parts of a machine of cogs and stripped gears. It makes a pretense ministering to the spiritual needs of these thousands of men and women by an hour's service on a Sunday by a minister or workers or an occasional preacher whose field covers the state. It is offering perhaps a Christian sermon to the world. Tired, hungry, and perhaps, caught by an officer, condemned, sent to the prison of mother. Perhaps as in the case of a man from up north who has road those mothers who are about of their children, they will be tried again for larceny and perhaps be sent for another year to school for criminals. The state holds these boys in a way that might lead them to believe that its efforts are to punish

and brand them as unfit for society and leave them with heart filled with bitter indifference and emptied to the dregs of patriotism.

No wonder men return to crime. Their experience has taught them that the state is heartless and society at best is indifferent. We believe even boys ought to be punished for violating the law. In many cases a strap on the back would be better for the soul than a shovel in the hand. But something is wrong with our system of meting out justice to law breakers. There are perhaps few of us who might not have been sent to the roads or even to prison had the law overtaken us. If we "had sat where they sat" perhaps we might understand better and proceed differently.

The crying need of our prison system is not prison reform but prisoner reform. We have a Prison Board. We need more a Prisoner Board composed of some of our best Christian citizens. They should study each prisoner, learn his history and make provision for him when he is released. His relatives, his friends, or those who once knew him should be contacted and arrangements made for his welfare and return to society. He may be a prodigal of the worst sort, but there should be a place and a welcome for him somewhere. There should be a job provided till he has regained confidence in himself and the trustfulness of others.

If our state should spend one-tenth as much in trying to rescue and redeem its prison charges during their incarceration as it does to punish them it would be worth far more to both the state and society. It would not only save money to the state, but it would save many a miserable hopeless mother's son from a misery that lengthens into eternity.

We have good roads. We have good schools for the making of good citizens of our boys. But we have better schools for making hardened criminals who shall ever be a burden to the state and pariahs in society.

We have talked with men who served time in the state prison at Raleigh. They told us that the state took no personal interest in them more than to see that they were kept safe and served time. Nothing was said as to their future when they had paid to the state the price of misdeed. When that debt was paid, they were sent out into a no-man's land. Many have no home. Few have any money. None have a job. The church at best offers a cold loaf, the world offers a stone.

Look upon North Carolina's School for Criminals! Each year thousands are graduated with full dishonors from its granite walls. If our General Assembly would appropriate double or treble the amount it offers our Welfare Board and begin an earnest and honest effort to salvage the hundreds of boys and men coming from our prisons today, that would be an evidence of the State's having a soul and that a man may be down but never out if his commonwealth will lend a hand.

Dr. L. M. Massey  
To Lecture

Dr. L. M. Massey has been selected to lecture for the March meeting in the Post-Graduate course being conducted this year for the dentists of the state. The course is sponsored by the University of North Carolina in conjunction with the North Carolina Dental Society.

Dr. Massey's subject is Oral Surgery and Infection. The meeting will be held in Raleigh, N. C. at the Carolina Hotel on March 10.

Washington  
Current  
Comments

When is a man too old for a job, whether on the supreme bench or elsewhere? Mr. Taft thought that judges should be retired at 70 and Elihu Root, whose recent passing at 92 was marked by the regret of those outside of his party as well as those within it, formed a rule that he should be retired at three score and ten, to be called back to repeated public service even by those who opposed him politically although he did not under rate his ability. Mr. Root was considered capable of carrying out an important mission for the U. S. abroad. At that age many a man cannot find his way to and from the post-office. As to when a man is "old", the rule must fall back upon the general rule that circumstances alter cases.

It is said that more than a hundred acres of timber are required to furnish the paper that goes into the single Sunday edition of a widely circulated daily. That is bad for the forests, but it happens that the printing of newspaper is destined to go on, and nobody is greatly concerned about the fact that when he pockets his newspaper he has bought for a nickel, and is carrying off, a tree that may have required 50 years for its growth. The answer to the question over the decrease in the supply of wood is to be answered not by frowning on newspaper publication and other activities which consume that substance, but by devising a sound forestry policy which will meet the ever-increasing demand made upon the woodlands.

World Calendar  
Wins Approval

News reaches Washington from the League of Nations that it has voted to submit to all governments proposals for the adoption of World Calendar, so that it may go into effect on Sunday, January 1, 1939.

For many years there has been a growing demand throughout the world among statesmen; scientists, high church officials, and business men for a final adjustment of the calendar. The last change was made in the eighteenth century when the Gregorian calendar was accepted by the United States and other nations. But the Gregorian calendar did not quite succeed in accomplishing its purposes.

The present form of the calendar will be on the twelve-month equal-quarter basis, i. e.: January, 31 days; February, 30; March, 31; April, 31; May, 30; June, 30; July, 31; August, 30; September, 30; October, 31; November, 30; December, 30—with an extra "Year Day" following December 30. This is what is believed to be a permanent calendar. There will be an extra "Leap Day" in each leap year.

Many movements for calendar reform have received considerable approval throughout the world, strictly on their merits. The World Calendar has met all the tests, and seems to be a fair way to gain approval.

TRICHINOSIS

from an article by J. H. ... in The Country Gentleman and reprinted with special permission of The Country Gentleman, Curtis ... (any.)

A disease of which ... little or nothing, ... startling assertion is ... that one person in seven in ... country is already suffering ... And the statement is based ... findings of the Public Health ... at Washington.

Trichinosis comes from eating infected pork that has not been thoroughly cooked. Such meat contains the eggs of tiny worms about 1-25 of an inch long. Sufficient heat kills the eggs, but if they are taken alive into the stomach, they hatch in the intestines of the unfortunate eater. Each worm will give birth to at least a thousand more and they keep this up. They get into the blood and are carried all through the body to anchor in the muscular tissues. Nature tries to wall off these tiny worms by surrounding them with calcium and

other mineral matter. But once infected, the parasites stay with the sufferer. They cause untold numbers of deaths and are seldom blamed, as diagnosis is extremely difficult. In fact, at the present time the only way to be positive that trichinosis caused death is a post mortem examination.

Symptoms of the sickness closely resemble typhoid, malaria, rheumatism, heart disease, and many other diseases. Pneumonia is a frequent result of infestation of the body by trichinae. In cases that are not fatal there is much pain and lowered vitality. It is encouraging to Southerners to learn that fewer cases are found in the South than elsewhere in the United States but that does not mean there is no danger here. Hogs that range in fields and have grain to eat are much less liable to infection than are those fed city garbage and kept in small lots.

It should be borne in mind that thorough cooking will kill all the trichinae in pork and make it safe to eat. But one great danger in this day of roadside stands is that a so-called hamburger sandwich may contain pork sausage mixed

with the beef. This mixture hurriedly cooked as such foods usually are, may carry the germs of death although perfectly safe if cooked sufficiently long at a high temperature.

Pork is one of the cheapest and one of the most nourishing of meats and the value of swine raising to the South would be almost impossible to evaluate. And it is most gratifying to remember that in this section home-raised pork is probably wholly safe. But we do eat barbecue and hamburgers that may be made from shipped-in and infected pork. Again it is a tremendous relief to know that these may be made safe by thorough cooking. Insist upon that. Eat your beefsteak or your wild ducks rare, if you so desire; but see to it that your pork is well done.

PARDON US

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