

boys and men, giving them hell, will not solve the problem. Degrading and embittering men in prison was tried for many hundreds of years and it didn't stop crime. Most crimes are committed by men and women, boys and girls, who have never been in any penal institution, so that the reason must be sought outside these institutions. But there are some hopeless cases, some who must be dealt with outside the routine of the regular prisons. It is not the prisons which are to blame when such inmates go out, after a limited sentence, and commit other crimes. The most that we should be called upon to answer for is the safe-keeping of these men during the term of sentence.

THE PRIVILEGE OF PAROLE *

BY WILL COLVIN

It makes little difference whether you term the *paroling authority* a board, commission, department, division, or what not.

But it makes vast difference to the people and the public welfare of every state how you constitute that *authority*.

No man, or set of men, inexperienced in parole work, can be expected to do it intelligently or successfully.

An error once made with life or liberty can never be retrieved. With property and things it may be different.

No matter who the person and no matter what his qualifications may be, it must take from two to four years of intensive study and actual, daily experience before one knows or understands the real work of pardon and parole.

If entrusted with authority while gaining that experience, there can be but one result—the public welfare must suffer from the errors and mistakes that are bound to be made.

It is of extreme importance that those vested with paroling authority, whether in the larger or smaller States, give to the work their undivided attention. Part time service works irreparable injury to society and the parolee.

In the smaller States probably three persons are sufficient to do the parole work, but in the larger States no less than five, and possibly seven, persons should be entrusted with such important work.

One member of every paroling authority should bear an individual responsibility over the entire work.

Successful operation of parole laws and the indeterminate sentence can be obtained only in proper administration by the paroling authority.

Aftercare and supervision, which are matters of administration in all the States, furnish the real strength back of every parole.

Let me congratulate the States of Ohio, New Jersey and Pennsylvania in their recent creation of Boards or Departments of Public Welfare. Legislation of this character meets the latest thought of those who are devoting their lives to a study of these problems.

* From an address read at the thirteenth annual meeting of the American Institute, Cincinnati, Ohio, November 19, 1921.