

LIMIT TIME OF SENTENCE

Females Cannot be Given Longer Than Two Years in Refuges

An aftermath of the inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of Alice Halloran at the House of the Good Shepherd recently was heard in the Legislature yesterday. Hon. W. D. McPherson, the Provincial Secretary, introduced a bill amending the existing law governing such institutions. Heretofore it has been permissible to sentence females between the ages of fifteen and thirty-five years to industrial refuges for an indefinite period not exceeding five years. Parents or guardians have also been able to have children placed in Houses of Correction without judicial inquiry. The main object of the amendments is to take care of those cases.

In future Magistrates will only be permitted to sentence females to such institutions for an indeterminate period not exceeding two years. The inspector is also given power to parole inmates upon such conditions as may be deemed proper. It will also be necessary for the superintendents to keep records of the conduct of inmates with a view to permitting them to be released on parole.

The amendments also provide that all inmates shall be examined by the medical practitioner in charge and reports forwarded to the department in order that the officials may be thoroughly advised as to the health of the inmates. Provision is made for removal of feeble-minded inmates to hospitals for proper treatment, and similar provision is made for those suffering from venereal diseases. A board of three legally-qualified medical practitioners will pass upon those inmates who are to be transferred.

SCHOOL AGE BILL IS INTRODUCED

Regulations Governing At- tendance of 14 to 18 Year Old Pupils

Thursday's debate in the Legislature on the extension of the school age has brought its result. The Adolescent School Age Bill, which was referred to by Hon. Dr. Cody at that time was introduced in the House last night by the Prime Minister, Sir William Hearst. The chief feature of the bill is that it provides for compulsory part-time education of boys and girls between the ages of fourteen and eighteen.

The bill introduced by the Prime Minister divides adolescents into two classes: those between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, who will be required to continue part-time education for 400 hours each year, and those between the ages of sixteen and eighteen, who will have to have 320 hours part-time education each year. The phraseology of the bill is such that boys and girls between the ages of fourteen and eighteen will not be able to secure employment unless they are able to produce school dismissal certificates or employment permits issued by the school attendance officer—an official provided under an act now going through the House.

However, there are a number of exceptions provided for in the act. These provide that illness or physical condition will be taken as an excuse, and in the case of a boy or girl under sixteen the act will not apply if he or she has passed the matriculation of a recognized university, or has completed a course of examination equivalent to matriculation.

The act also places upon urban centres of 5,000 population or over the duty of providing such courses for part-time education. Smaller centres "may" provide them. However, even if the act becomes law this session—and that is not expected—it will not become law until the Lieutenant-Governor issues a proclamation.