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IS THE WAY OF THE TRANSGRESSOR HARD IN THE PENITENTIARY?

Address by Warden J. C. Ponsford to Kiwanians—There Are Too Many Prisoners in the Portsmouth Institution, He Says.

The weekly luncheon of the Kiwanis Club held in the Hotel Frontenac on Monday evening and the session was marked by startling features, not the least of which was an auction sale of wonder perfumes, medicines, flavoring extracts, toilet articles, liniment and lotions manufactured and donated by Dr. G. W. Bell, Dr. Bell Wonder Medical Company, that realized \$28 for the Kiwanis charity fund, and an address by Kiwanian J. C. Ponsford, warden of Kingston penitentiary, on the subject "Is the way of the transgressor hard in Kingston penitentiary?" in which he took his audience into the prison and disclosed facts concerning the lives of those sentenced to confinement for crimes. A startling fact given by the speaker was that the number of prisoners in confinement has doubled in the four years since 1918—from 446 men and women to 850 at the present date. He did not deal on the subject of crime but with the internal economy of the penal institution which he pronounced as the best in America.

President Noble Steacy occupied the chair and the meeting went off with a bang from the start. Garnet Looket, as song leader, kept everybody right to the mark and the songs were well sung. During the roll call the following guests were announced: Prof. McRae, Dr. Melvor, Harry Orr, R. VanLoven, William Pillar, Al. Davis, Dr. G. W. Anglin, Charles Wilson, W. A. Marcellis was serg't-at-arms, and he collected the fines.

Dr. Bell, the booster, placed a bottle of perfume at each member's plate and in addition donated a large quantity of his preparations which were auctioned off by "Billy" Moore with astonishing success. Sam Corbett introduced Dr. Bell and told of his attainments in the professions of veterinary surgeon, and manufacturer of the "Wonder" remedies for horses, cows, sheep, pigs and other animals, as well as numerous other useful toilet articles. The doctor was given a hearty Kiwanis Salutation. The auction produced great amusement and Doctor Bell's perfume attained a great popularity, none of it being left on hand at the close. The articles were: Wonder foot comfort, shaving cream, perfume, hair tonic, bay rum, hair restorer, flavors, dandruff cure, witch hazel, cough syrup, and ointment, Bliss Barnum was a most efficient clerk.

A vote was taken on the question of holding luncheons during July and August and decided in favor of the meetings which will be held at 1 p.m. each Monday excepting July 3rd, Tuesday, July 4th, being chosen. The booster will be C. C. Folger on that occasion.

Warden Ponsford's Address.
In opening his excellent address Warden Ponsford said that the public learned little of a reliable character on the subject of Canadian penitentiaries from the literature produced, as the writers, as a rule obtained their information, not from personal investigation or experience, but from the books of other writers. Newspaper articles originated with sentimentalists.

He explained the procedure from the admission of a prisoner, his conversion from a man at liberty into a man with a number, his assignment to work in a prison shop with other felons, his sleeping accommodation, food and clothing, the provision made for his spiritual welfare and education, and the treatment provided during sickness. The hospital is up-to-date and major operations were performed in it during the last year with success.

"Work is provided and young men are taught such trades as carpentry, shoemaking, tailoring, blacksmithing, electrical engineering, and accountancy, while the illiterate learn to read and write. Twenty men are taking what are known as the entrance examination. The library contains 5,000 books of literature calculated to meet the moral requirements. Two chaplains, a Roman Catholic and a Protestant officiate on Sunday in the prison chapels."

"The executive staff of the dominion penitentiaries consists of the minister of justice, superintendent of penitentiaries and two inspectors. The six institutions under their care cost the country \$1,500,000 per month. The appropriation for Kingston penitentiary was stated as \$450,000 of which \$175,000 is for salaries, \$53,000 rations; \$22,500 clothing; \$21,700 heating; \$11,500 for maintenance of buildings; \$11,500 discharge expenses; \$8,000 uniforms; \$39,000 working expenses; \$9,500 for the treatment and maintenance of insane in provincial hospitals.

"But we have too many inmates at Kingston. The number has doubled since 1918 when the population was 446 whereas we now have

850 men and women." The method of serving the food was described, as being on the cafeteria plan, one appreciated by the men who have experienced the dining room system which is regarded as dangerous.

"The sentimentalists pay too much attention to men convicted of crimes and I have often received requests for a report on men under sentence but who had not yet reached the prison. This was due to the action of their friends in petitioning the minister of justice for pardon or release. Should our sympathy be extended to the criminal rather than to the injured party? asked the warden. "Why all this concern about a culprit who would not work and lived upon the production of others?"

Idleness Cause of Crime.
"The vast majority of boys who get into prison through indolence and by insisting upon living upon the avails and production of others. They get a different idea of life in prison and many come to see the error of their ways. Not more than five per cent. are second or third timers and this shows that the experience in prison teaches them something."

Referring to methods of discipline the speaker stated that the men were sent to prison for moral reformation and it was necessary to have something to hold over their heads in order to subjugate any disposed to run the place. Severe measures are needed occasionally.

"All prisons are built for security but vigilance is needed to ensure safe custody. For this purpose only officers on walls and having supervision of outside gangs are armed. Every man knows what his rights are and how far he can go.

"There are too many inmates at Kingston, 500 is the largest number any man can handle in my opinion. I advised the construction of a new building for accommodation but my ideal of a penitentiary is one located in an agricultural region with a walled reserve of 640 acres all of which can be under supervision, where the impossibility of employing more than 30 men on the prison farm at present with only 217 acres, or a farm that any three farmers can take care of. Moreover the soil is not adapted to intensive cultivation. I do not mean by this that the present penitentiary would be done away with, but only that another location might be obtained for the overflow population, and we are already engaged upon the consideration of this problem. There are too many public highways running through the present reserve."

In conclusion Warden Ponsford said "I challenge any one on the question of management, cleanliness and discipline of the Kingston penitentiary. It is second to none in America. (Applause.) A vote of thanks was tendered to him by president Noble Steacy.

T.I. YACHT CLUB OFFICERS NAMED

James H. Hammond Commodore—Local Men to Serve on Committees.

The officers and committees of the Thousand Islands Yacht club, Alexandria Bay have been announced. They follow: James H. Hammond, commodore; J. Norris Oliphant, vice commodore; W. Langdon Hayden, rear commodore; C. Leverett Hayden, secretary; Edward J. Noble, treasurer; A. Graham Miles, fleet captain; J. Miles Gibbons, M.D., fleet surgeon.

The honorary governors are two former commodores of the club, Thomas A. Gillespie and Charles M. Englis. Governors of the class of 1922 comprise: Commodore James H. Hammond, Frederick Fraser, Edward J. Noble, C. Leverett Hayden, Mr. Ewing, L. Rafferty; class of 1923, J. Norris Oliphant, Thomas H. Gillespie, Andrew McLean, A. Graham Miles, Andrew McNally, Isaac P. Wiser.

The executive committee of the club includes, W. Langdon Hayden, chairman; Charles M. Englis and C. Leverett Hayden. The house committee has C. Leverett Hayden for its chairman and J. Norris Oliphant and George C. Boldt, Jr., as its members.

The regatta committee has A. Graham Miles for its chairman and includes: Charles M. Englis, William Gilbert, Edward A. Picairn, Edward J. Noble, Dr. J. Miles Gibbons, F. R. Redpath, Edward J. Noble, Ewing L. Rafferty, William H. Downey. W. Langdon Hayden is chairman of the entertainment committee, and the following compose the membership: Thomas A. Gillespie, A. Graham Miles, Dr. Edward J. Picairn, Edward J. Noble, Andrew McLean, Andrew McNally, William H. Downey, J. Norris Oliphant, Thomas H. Gillespie, Francis S. Hutchins, Temple T. Berdan, Frederic Conde, John B. Taylor, George S. Hasbrouck.

The golf committee has Mr. Samuel Ralzell for its chairman, and the members include: George C. Boldt, Mrs. A. Graham Miles, Lee M. Rumsey, W. Fellows Morgan.

The advisory committee has Thomas A. Gillespie as chairman and the members are Frank O. Lowden, Fred Fraser, Edson Bradley, Otis n. Cutler, John B. Taylor, George C. Boldt, Jr., Charles M. Englis, S. H. Vandegrift, Thomas H. Wheeler, An-

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- WHITE CANVAS SHOES, rubber soles for girls \$1.50 to \$2

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drew McLean, Chester R. Hoag, James H. Hammond, Price McKinney, E. S. Woodward.

MAY BE THE HOME OF THE U.S. PRESIDENT

Talking of Buying the Magnificent Pile on Hart Island.

The proposition to purchase the magnificent property on Hart Island, opposite Alexandria Bay, N.Y., formerly owned by the estate of George C. Holdt of New York, as a summer home for the president, is taking definite form, and is meeting with enthusiastic support among the millionaire island residents. There is no doubt that the amount required will be raised.

The great purpose for which this splendid property can be appropriately used is a summer home for the president of the United States. There is no other in keeping with the magnitude and grandeur of the buildings, the grounds and the setting, in the heart of one of the most wonderful spots on the earth. It is an ideal home for the president in summer. He can have all the seclusion he desires, with good fishing in both Canadian and American waters, whenever he needs rest from the arduous labors as chief executive of a great nation.

The location is ideal from many viewpoints: It is within about 18 hours' ride of Washington, and hence is easy of access. Being on the northern boundary of the United States, it would tend to promote friendly relations with our cousins on the north, for Canadians would naturally come in great numbers to get a glimpse and a handshake with the president.

Governor Lowden, Illinois, has a fine summer home nearby, built by the late George M. Pullman and he has invited President Harding up this summer. Congressmen Snell and Mott have been interested in the project.

Where Is the Circus?

Citizens of all classes are asking where is the circus this year? Many inquiries have come in to the Whig office and the matter has been looked into. As far as can be learned, the John Robinson Circus planned to come to Kingston and after signing up contracts telegraphed cancelling them. The Hagenbeck circus is reported also to have signed contracts and later cancelled them. Ringling Brothers are performing in Belleville on July 6th, but if this show is coming to Kingston nothing is known here about it. It was rumored about that the city license fee and ground rental was an obstacle, but city officials state that the advance agents made no complaint and signed the contract that called for the payment of \$100 for license and \$100 ground rental without hesitation. This is a very moderate fee considering Kingston is regarded as a big show city.



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