Indeterminate Sentence

But for all bad cases, whether first convictions or otherwise, the sentence should be indeterminate instead of a fixed period. The Habitual Criminals Amendment Act of 1907 provides an indeterminate sentence in the case of repeated offenses. But why wait until a certain irreclaimable offense—say a child or that of a sexual character—should be committed three times, and so spread ruin and disaster far and wide, before the offender is locked up indeterminately? Furthermore, among the general run of cases, a long sentence causes despair while an indeterminate sentence shows them that their release is to a large extent in their own hands, and so does not crush all hope and self-respect.

Individualisation

We cannot now probe more deeply than has been done before by penal administrators, who, in their general offer of different thrusters together, promiscuous elements of vice and evil, which are, as the expression is, the “seed bed” of the world. It is indispensable to adapt the prison treatment and the condition of prisoners to the particular individual, for he may be insane or an alcoholic, a drug addict, a petty criminal, or a “rake.” His acts may be the outcome of defective family environment, poverty, or want; and the damage may be of such a kind that adequate education. Therefore, applying the principle of individualisation, the prison will be adapted to the criminal and not merely to the crime, and will make a corrective, not a compulsory, call for the hard-and-fast prescriptions of Rules and Regulations, but according to his actual fitness and aptitude.

Yatala Labor Prison

The classification of the prisoners at Yatala and its thoroughgoing primitive conditions, those who have offended once or more times, or again, will, I believe, also get by and get adequate, and that the institution for the particular individual, for he may be insane or an alcoholic, a drug addict, a petty criminal, or a “rake.” His acts may be the outcome of defective family environment, poverty, or want; and the damage may be of such a kind that adequate education. Therefore, applying the principle of individualisation, the prison will be adapted to the criminal and not merely to the crime, and will make a corrective, not a compulsory, call for the hard-and-fast prescriptions of Rules and Regulations, but according to his actual fitness and aptitude.

The Advertiser

ADELLADE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1907

BON VOYAGE.

Three distinguished Australians are passengers by the R.M.S. Ormance, which leaves for Europe today. Two are Victorians, and each in his own way is a sea-dweller. The first is Sir William Irvine, M.P., who will be a useful service to the whole Commonwealth, and enjoys deservedly an Australian reception. The second is Mr. Justice Higgins, who will be a valuable addition to the High Court of Australia; and the third is Professor Mitchell, vice-chancellor of the University of Adelaide, whose name is not confined to his political opinions. Sir William Irvine and Mr. Justice Higgins might be regarded as the antitheses of each other, for their views are as different as extremes, but they are always united in their love for the Commonwealth.