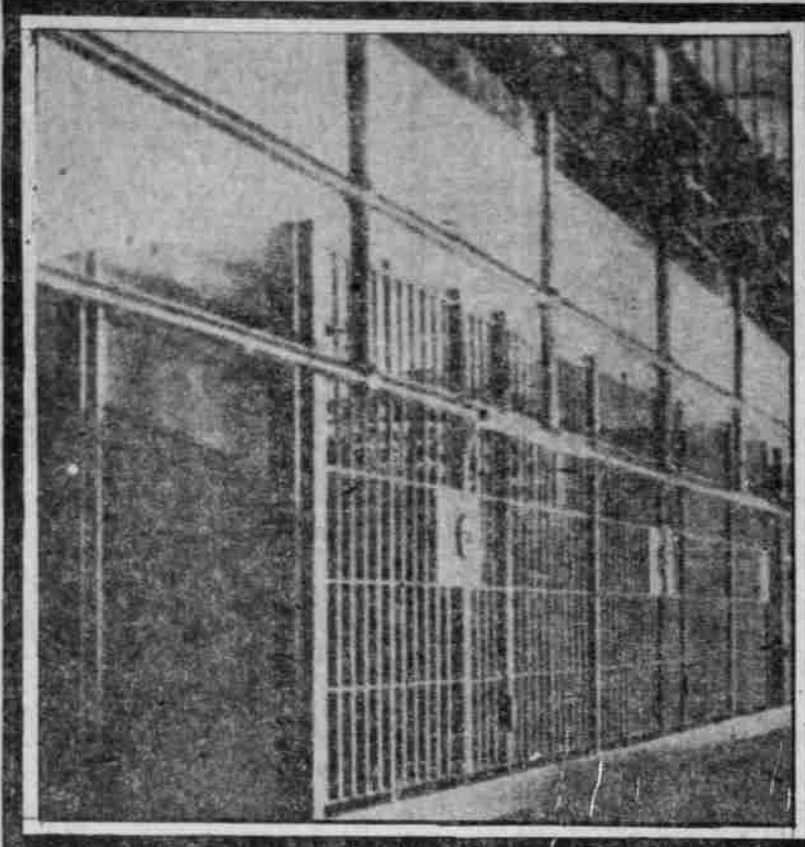


WHY SO MANY PEOPLE GO WRONG

THE GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO INQUIRE IN A SCIENTIFIC WAY: WORLD'S FIRST TEST OF LOMBROSO'S THEORY



200 METHOD OF CONFINING PRISONERS



STRIPED ZEBRA-LIKE, AND GAZED AT BY ALL PASSERS-BY

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 16.
 To learn why people go wrong is the proposed function of a laboratory which Senator Dolliver, of Iowa, wants established in some spare corner of the Interior Department. His bill to this effect, which has been introduced also in the House, has just been discussed in an interesting hearing before the Senate committee on education and labor, to which it has been recommended by the important National and state legal and medical associations.

Jail Population Bigger Than Nashville's

More and more people are going wrong from year to year, according to statistics read to the committee. There are now enough people in our jails (82,000) to populate a city bigger than Nashville. In New York alone there are 18,000 prisoners, more than enough to fill a city of the size of Cairo, Ill., or Leadville, Colo.

Slay every soul in Denver today and you reproduce the 12,000 murders and homicides which have been committed in this country in 25 years. And to put a finer point on it, there are, per million population, three times as many murders in the United States today as there were 20 years ago. Criminals are inflicting the death sting upon 25 of our citizens per day, and this very day of our sad, senseless feeling and shattering this Nashville of criminals in our jails and reformatories, we are boarding and lodging an equal number of paupers (82,000) in our almshouses; for, oddly enough, our prison and almshouse populations are equal, within a few hundreds. Combining them we have a total of 164,000 criminals and paupers. Our task would be lighter if we boarded, lodged and clothed in the same way every living, kicking soul in Kansas City or St. Paul. And, worse and more of it, we have in our asylums nearly an equal number of feeble-minded in the land, although only 14,000—enough to fill a second Alexandria, Va.—in any state. Adding the deaf and dumb and the blind we have a total defective population of 400,000, equal to two Minneapolises, or more than one Cleveland.

Bostonful of Public Charges

These figures are all to the point here because Senator Dolliver's proposed laboratory is to study "the criminal, pauper and defective classes," which, all told, amount to 564,000, or over a Bostonful. If we include the criminals and paupers in jails and institutions only, and the statistics presented at the hearing on the bill showed that these classes are increasing from year to year, in proportion to population.

But why? That is what the American Bar Association, the American Medical Association and five other National medical societies backing the bill would like to know. When the bill weevil gets into the crevices of New England the Government is willing to spend thousands in learning "why." The investigation which Senator Dolliver and the 72 scientists endorsing his bill want inaugurated will cost the Government the extravagant sum of \$500 per annum—the amount stated in the bill. And our criminals alone are estimated to cost us a billion dollars a year. What the first Thaw trial alone cost the State of New York would support this investigation for 15 years.

Immigrants Not to Blame

That our increased immigration is to blame for this continued swelling of our wrongward-going herds we are almost certain to learn from our wisest who go off with a click on all public questions. But this "scum of Europe" argument does not live long in the light of knowledge lately gleaned by our careful statisticians, who find the smallest increase of homicides, for instance, in the states where the most immigrants are concentrated and the greatest increase in the far West and South, where the fewest aliens penetrate. In August Drahm's recent work, "The Criminal," the various proportions of murders and homicides in the United States are laid to the door of our various nationalities in the following proportions: Native white, 42.94 per cent; negroes, 21.2 per cent; foreign born, 16.90 per cent. But murders and homicides are about the only offenses with which our statisticians have busied themselves to date, so far as the country as a whole is concerned. No one knows the relationship of natives to crime in general, and that is one line of research into which this proposed laboratory of the government would inquire.

Do Prisons Increase Crime?

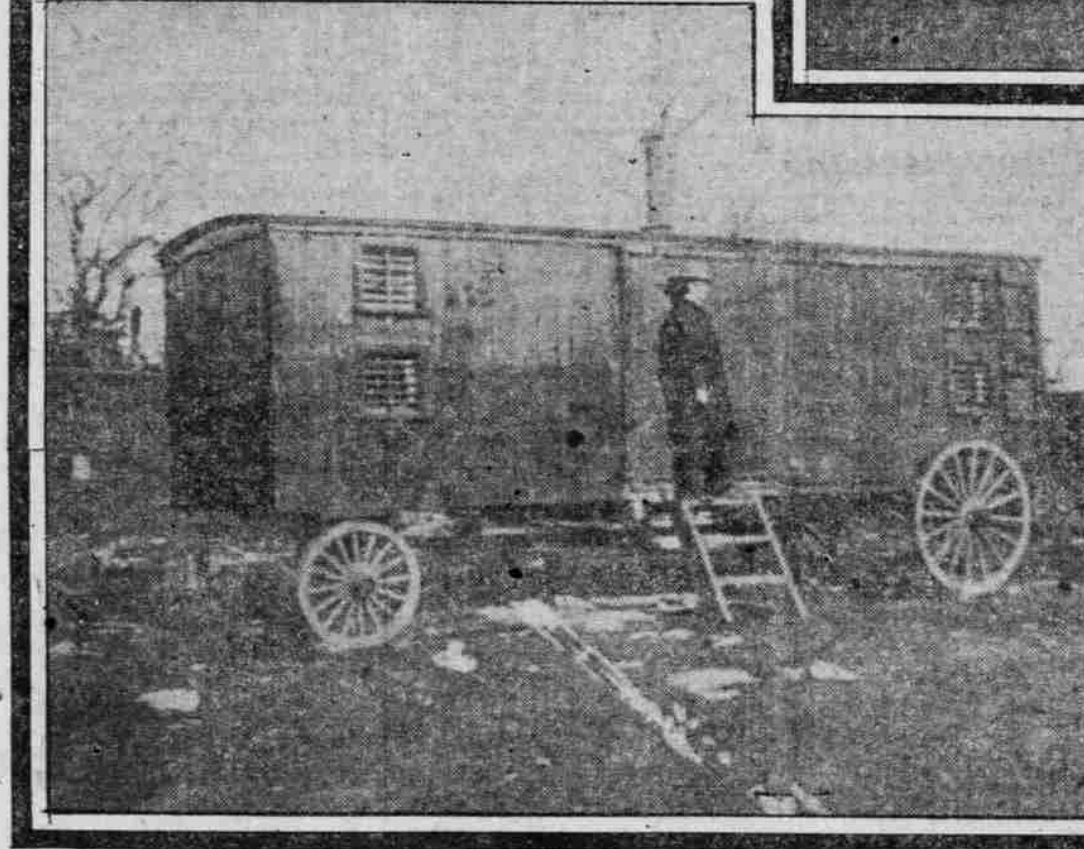
Whether our prison methods increase crime is another question to be answered. The civilized world, after sleeping over the question for centuries, awoke to the fact that it was brutal to cage the insane and exhibit them in the open, like animals, also to chain them like dogs in dimness spread with loose straw bedding. Yet we still adhere religiously to the zoological garden method of confining our prisoners in tiers of iron cages where visitors can pass down the line and gaze at them through the bars. And the circus parade method of carting the "chain gang" through our streets and over our public roads; also the menagerie van system of carting them to the public works in stuffy, portable prisons, wherein they must live of

nights until the tour is complete, are still cherished by us in this 20th century of our Lord. The system of striping delinquents zebra-wise and then turning them out in the open to be jeered at by the street gamins and stared at by all passers-by is still esteemed in many communities, notably those in which crime seems to be most rampant. But a progressive element of our population has come to believe that humans treated like beasts will so behave, also that it is bad social economy, to say the least, to try to prevent crime by degrading the criminal and then turning him loose upon society more helpless, hopeless, revengeful and brutal than he was when first locked up.

These advanced thinkers, whom your police authorities will brand as "visionaries," are now advocating the displacement of these old and tried menagerie systems of revenging crime by the moral hospital system of trying to cure it. The experiment has been tried, notably at Elmira, N. Y., where delinquents are divided into grades, under military discipline, and are set at learning useful occupations in a "reformatory trades school" "school of letters," are given systematic physical culture in a modern gymnasium; are cheered by music and given lasting moral training through the intellect rather than temporary moral stimulation through the emotions. These delinquents are marked like college boys, and after passing up through the grades are paroled on probation, and finally discharged as cured when by their own mental and moral enterprise they work their way through the labyrinth, each one-half of one per cent of these moral invalids now have to go to the guardhouse in a year, and of those discharged and paroled over 88 per cent do well. This is the "indeterminate sentence" system, concerning which we are hearing much these days. And this brief outline of the method is to the point here because one of the phases of the investigation wanted by Senator Dolliver would be the determination of what classes of criminals can and cannot be improved in this way.

Marks of Habitual Criminal

The difference between habitual and occasional criminals must for this purpose be learned. "There are a certain number, how large no one knows, of men who under normal or average conditions are almost sure to go wrong," the Senate committee considering this bill was told the other day by Arthur MacDonald, who was honorary president of the recent international congress of criminal anthropology, held in Europe, and who, often living in penitentiaries in order to do so, has studied various criminal types, including the most desperate murderers of this generation. For the study of criminals, paupers and defectives, according to the most modern methods utilized by anthropologists and psychologists, he has devised a system which has been translated into nearly every language of the world, and whose adoption is now under consideration by six foreign governments, including Japan. According to this plan, the prevention of crime should commence with a study of the delinquent child. These reformatory children found to be habitual criminals should be carefully studied to determine in what ways they differ physically and nervously from other children. These characteristics, when afterward definitely discovered in young children who show preliminary symptoms, would give the alarm for the taking of preventive measures earlier in life than they are taken now. A child in which such a tendency had been diagnosed should then be treated, such as would a child with weak lungs or a weak heart. Parents would be informed in a private way as to the tendencies and told how to protect these unfortunates in ad-



THE MENAGERIE VAN METHOD. CONVICT QUARTERS ON WHEELS. TENNESSEE PUBLIC ROADS

But such information, if given to teachers, should be confidential. The state has been trying to do something through laws punishing the guilty; but this is after the deed is discovered. The barn is locked after the horse is stolen," said Mr. MacDonald. Lombroso, the noted Italian criminologist, believes that these signs of the habitual criminal are marked, but Mr. MacDonald told the committee that this can be proved only by a thorough investigation of thousands of reformatory children. And if this study should show that these signs bore no significance, such negative information would be of great value. Such a study in our reformatories would be proper, because their inmates are supported by the state, and there would be nothing to harm or annoy a single child, even if the study were as inquisitive as that commonly made of men in prison.

How Each Will Be Studied.

"The general plan," said Mr. MacDonald, "would be to employ specialists in psychology, medicine and anthropology. Just what data would be taken would depend, in part, on the views of each specialist, but probably among these would be: Age, date of birth, height, weight, sitting weight, color of hair, eyes and skin, whether a first-born, second-born or later-born child; strength of hand grasp, whether left-handed; length, width and circumference of head; distance between arches and corners of eyes; length and width of ears, hands and mouth; thickness of lips; tests of sensibility to heat and pain—the latter made without inflicting any pain; examination of the lungs, eyes, pulse and respiration; careful inquiry into nationality, occupation, education and social condition of parents, including whether one or both are dead or drunkards; whether there is a step-parent; whether there is hereditary taint or stigmata of degeneration. By such study the causes of juvenile crime might be more definitely determined, as well as the differences between occasional and habitual criminals. Now, if we had a book published on, say, 10,000 boys with the above different items, it would be most valuable. We have all sorts of theories in criminology, but there are few, if any, definite conclusions, and there never will be until we begin a scientific study of thousands of individuals. There can be no rational treatment of a social or moral disease without knowing its causes."

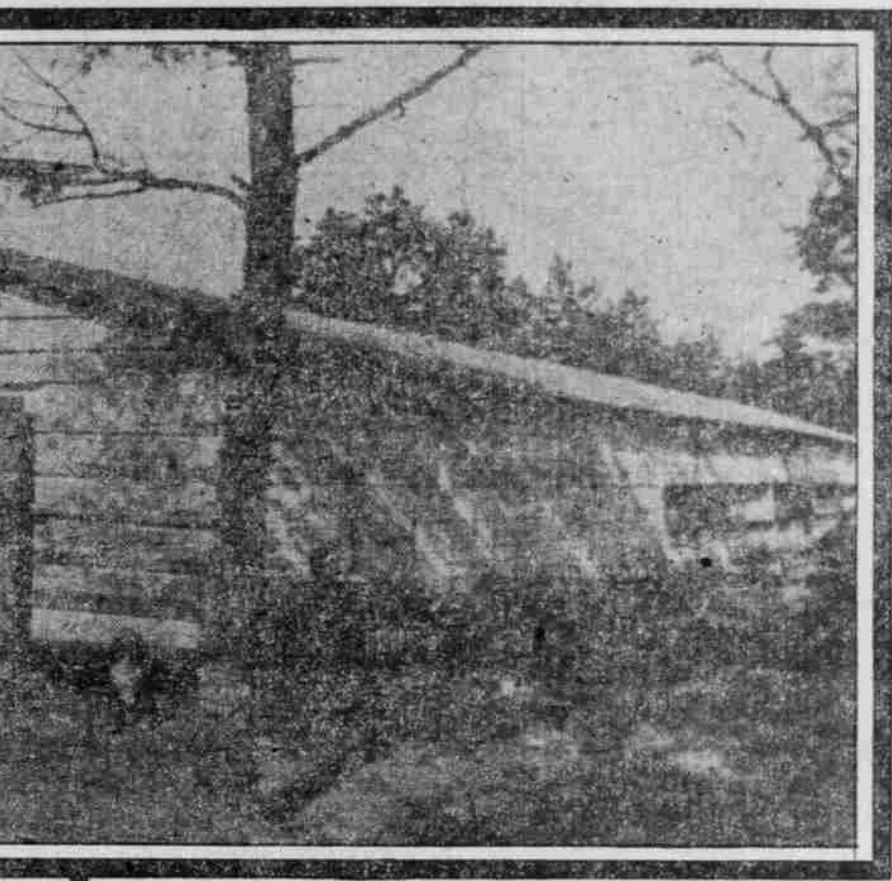
Signs of Crime Found to Date.

The theory that the criminal is a reversion to a lower type results from indications—given by the limited number of cases studied to date—that certain physical defects normal in the lower races and in animals are found much more frequently among criminals than among normal men, said the criminologist. Thus, in a small group of young criminals, carefully studied, three-fourths had an arm reach greater than the height, two-thirds had abnormally projecting jaws, defective palates, ears standing out, and over half had defective heads, abnormally prominent cheek bones and ridges on the forehead; also defective teeth. A third had abnormally large protuberance of the back head; rimless or nearly rimless ears, thick lips, crooked faces, fingers longer than the palms of their hands and mouths kept open.

An investigation of the hereditary taints of such of these criminal children as could be traced showed nervous disease in nearly all (85 per cent), alcoholism and lung diseases in two-thirds, insanity in nearly half and epilepsy in nearly a third of their pedigrees. A study of 200 other reformatory children described to the committee by Mr. MacDonald showed that a majority had been abandoned by their parents, a still greater number had been thieves, and one parent or both of their parents a half had been alcoholics. Nearly a quarter of these unfortunates were illegitimate. In a study of 385 other young criminals further facts of great interest were brought out.

Nearly two-thirds had incomplete parentage—were without father or mother or both. Over a half had parentage of bad or doubtful reputation. Over 40 per cent had received little or no care in the family, and over a third had been completely or morally abandoned by parents. The great majority of the parents of these juvenile delinquents lived exclusively on the product of their labor, and 87 who were found without means of subsistence included the most vile and corrupt mothers living in immorality and debauchery. These investigations, though incomplete, unanimous and including groups of subjects too small to establish any definite causes for juvenile crime, serve to show what valuable results can be obtained by a complete system of examination such as that recommended to the committee. Such a study would about settle the vexed question as to whether most of our crime results from heredity or environment.

Mrs. Elizabeth Carter intends to build a home for impoverished literary women as a memorial to her husband, who fell in the Little Big Horn fight with the Indians 20 years ago. Mrs. Carter has recently bought a site for the proposed home in Bronxville, Westchester county, New York.



PORTABLE QUARTERS FOR 50 CONVICTS NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC ROADS

Uncle Sam as an Auctioneer

Frequent Bargains Offered at Washington in Furniture and Pure Food Samples.

THE number of going, going, gone sales which the Government conducts ought to qualify Uncle Sam for admission to the guild of auctioneers. These sales are the real thing, too, red fire and all.

The tourist in Washington gets a shock when he is passing the back of the Department of Agriculture building these days and sees a big red flag with the usual white letters sewed on: "Auction Today." He wonders if the Government is resorting to desperate means of raising the wind.

But your Uncle Sam is not in the auction business from necessity. The Agriculture sales are explained in this way. Whenever an invoice of any article of food arrives from abroad a certain number of packages are taken by the Government for examination to see whether the article complies with our food laws.

For instance, olive oil, Maraschino cherries, wine, sardines, mushrooms, French peas, preserves and jams—in fact all imported food articles—come under this regulation. But though the Government requires half a dozen packages to be turned over to it for inspection in order to avoid the chance of a single one being fixed up and slipped off upon them—the analysis rarely goes beyond the contents of one specimen out of the six.

So that of each consignment of six cans of olive oil, six bottles of cherries or of champagne or six cans of sardines, five remain untouched. If graft were really as prevalent as the muck-rakers would have us believe the entire six packages would probably be opened and a nip taken from each one, while the rest of the contents would be appropriated as a legitimate perquisite of office (by the heads of the department).

Instead of that, five out of six of the articles received for analysis under the law are sold at these auctions behind the department building. The receipts go into the exchequer of the bureau.

Imported food articles are not the only ones sold. The Government receives specimen packages of domestic manufactured foods and even of those which are natural. Oranges, molasses, maple syrup, wine, whisky, olive oil, breakfast foods, patented foods of all kinds, come to the department.

Most of these are auctioned off to the highest bidder, but some of them are sold at a fixed price. Recently there have been almost daily sales of molasses and of light brown sugar.

Any one can attend these sales and buy, or at least bid on, the goods offered. But most of the patrons are the clerks and employees of the department. The auctions are held at noon, so as to accommodate these people.

They take advantage of their lunch hour to lay in some household supplies. They admit that sometimes things bring the usual soaring auction prices. At a recent sale of oranges by the box enthusiastic bidders paid a higher figure than was asked at the regular market. And then they had to get their box of oranges taken home by an expressman at a charge of 25 cents; for Uncle Sam does not deliver the goods at your door.

They say that the luxuries such as branded cherries, mushrooms, caviar and that sort of thing go at lower prices relatively than the good old standbys do. Of course the purchaser is sure of one thing. He gets what he pays for. If the one package which the Government expert opened and analyzes is found to be below the standard the whole six are unceremoniously destroyed.

Next to foodstuffs, Uncle Sam's auctions run chiefly to carpets. That is, they do in Washington. Of course in New York the biggest auction sales of the Government are of goods seized at the Custom-House. These include thousands of dollars worth of goods of every conceivable class, and are too well known to need description.

It is the regular second-hand sales which surprise the stranger in Washington. These do not occur very often, and yet every year there are several. They include carpets, curtains, furniture, utensils and fittings of all kinds. Every visitor to the White House remembers the cheerful red carpet with which the children say, "night unseeable," and the old one is cut into lengths which are rolled up and auctioned off, as the children say, "night unseeable." This seems to be a rather absurd performance on the part of Uncle Sam. It is related by those who know that more than one woman has wept copiously when she got her White House carpet home and unrolled it. The unceasing tramp of a two years' grist of tourists wears a carpet till it takes a good passer to decide what its color and pattern were or whether it ever had any at all.

The carpets of the Senate and the House of Representatives are auctioned off at the close of each Congress and are sold to bring all they are worth and more too. Like the White House carpets they are divided into quantities more adapted to private needs than the hundreds of yards required for the two chambers at the Capitol.

Sometimes the chairman of a committee decides that he has lived with the furniture of his committee room just as long as he is going to. When that happens there's a pretty sure to be something doing in the furniture business. Congressmen and Senators have very nearly the best of everything—sometimes the chairman of a committee from the hands of Uncle Sam. When a new desk and set of chairs goes into a committee room the surplus is sold to the Government auction.

There is another annual sale conducted by the Government. The accumulated packages which find repose at the dead letter office go under the hammer once a year to clear the way for the incoming tide of the next 12 months. At these sales everything is carefully catalogued and all broken or defective articles are so declared. Even then a purchaser is always forthcoming.