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PRISON BILLS IN NEW YORK

IX. Providing for the creation in the office of the Superintendent of Prisons of an employment bureau for paroled and discharged convicts.

X. Providing for the establishment in the office of the Superintendent of Prisons of a Bureau of Criminal Statistics for the State of New York.

Report of the Illinois State Reformatory.—The twelfth biennial report of the managers of the Illinois State Reformatory at Pontiac has just been received. It covers the period ending June 30, 1914. The report contains a great deal of data that should be interesting to the general public. Among other things, we notice that the General Superintendent urges the purchase of additional land for the institution. Two hundred acres of land are now available for farming purposes. He says that the statistics of the institution show that 90 per cent of their boys who are paroled as farm hands, after having been taught the art of farming at the institution, make good farmers and substantial citizens. He recommends, therefore, that at least 300 acres of land, in addition to that now held, be purchased for this purpose. The farm superintendent also urges that this step be taken, and adds that in a short time the products of the farm will be sufficient to supply the institution.

The General Superintendent calls attention to the fact that the Ohio State Farm has recently purchased 1,000 acres for this purpose.

The population of the reformatory has been slowly decreasing for several years, owing to several facts: *First*, boys who are found guilty of crime in the municipal courts of Chicago are no longer sent to the reformatory, but are confined in Cook County institutions. *Second*, the criminal courts of Cook County commit a large percentage of those found guilty to Cook County institutions. *Third*, a large number of boys, formerly committed to the state reformatory, are now sent to the St. Charles School for Boys. *Fourth*, courts are taking advantage of the recent law which gives all courts of record the right to place certain first offenders upon probation.

The superintendent recommends that only boys who are over the age of 16 years should be sent to the state reformatory; that the state laws be so changed as to include all offenders under the age of 16, and that the age limit be raised from 16 to 25 years inclusive. He would admit, therefore, only first offenders who are aged from 21 to 25 years inclusive, and a provision should be made that in case it should become definitely known after commitment to the reformatory that a person had been guilty of previous offenses, or had been previously convicted or served time in any other reformatory or penitentiary, that he be immediately transferred to the state penitentiary.

R. H. G.

Prisoners' Mail.—In Vol. 4, No. 6, March, 1914, beginning page 920 of this Journal, we published a note under the above title, which summarized the provisions in the various states of the Union with reference to mail privileges for convicts. The data there published came from the hand of J. J. Sanders, Parole Clerk of the Arizona State Prison. We have just received a pamphlet under this title, by the same author, which contains some information that we set forth here to supplement the note referred to above. Since that note was published, Mr. Sanders has secured information as follows:

In Arkansas, the inmates of the state prison are allowed an unlimited daily letter mail. They are also allowed the newspapers, periodicals and magazines.