PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Report of the Director of New Haven

For the Year Ended December 31st

1953

VICTORIA, B.C.
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1954

To His Honour CLARENCE WALLACE, C.B.E.,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The undersigned has the honour to submit herewith the Report of the Director of New Haven for the year ended December 31st, 1953.

R. W. BONNER,
Attorney-General.

Attorney-General's Department,
Victoria, B.C., February 23rd, 1954.

NEW HAVEN, SOUTH BURNABY, B.C., FEBRUARY 22ND, 1954.

The Honourable R. W. Bonner, Q.C.,
Attorney-General, Province of British Columbia,
Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.

SIR,—In accordance with section 13 of the "New Haven Act," I have the honour to submit my annual report, setting forth a record of the work of the institution during the year ended December 31st, 1953.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

S. ROCKSBOROUGH SMITH,
Director.

Annual Report of the Director of New Haven

For the Year Ended December 31st, 1953

During 1953 the monthly average population of 35.2 was the highest it has been in the history of the institution. There were fifty-nine admissions and forty-seven discharges.

A noticeable trend during the year was the increased number of committals with previous criminal records, youths with two or three previous convictions, many of them seriously disturbed and well on the way to becoming persistent offenders. To cope with this situation, permission was obtained to appoint a full-time social worker on the staff. It was felt that this worker could devote his attention to those more seriously disturbed youths, working in close co-operation with the visiting psychiatrist and psychologist. He could also visit their parents at home and attempt to interpret what we are trying to accomplish at the institution, so that they would have a greater understanding of the problems involved and be better prepared to receive their sons on their release.

Another problem which became more acute during the past year was the increased number of educationally retarded youths admitted. Many of these lads were quite incapable of handling a correspondence course on their own. To ease this situation, the services of a part-time teacher with experience in teaching backward youths was obtained. Classes were held for this group on three evenings a week, and the results have been most gratifying. Not only did the members of the group all show progress, but, what was even more important, they began to show an interest and enthusiasm in their school work. The success of this project was largely due to the teacher, Mrs. Page, and the novel methods she employed for gaining their interest.

The beginnings of an experiment in shared responsibility were initiated during the year. One of the essential aims of Borstal training is the development of an increasing sense of responsibility in each lad as he progresses in his training. Rule 25 of the English Borstal Rules lays down that " the purpose of Borstal training requires that every inmate, while conforming to the rules necessary for well-ordered community life, shall be able to develop his individuality on right lines with a proper sense of personal responsibility. Members of the staff shall therefore, while firmly maintaining discipline and order, seek to do so by influencing the inmates through their own example and leadership and by enlisting their willing co-operation."

As a means of furthering the development of a greater sense of community responsibility among the lads, a House Committee was formed, which met regularly throughout the year. The members of the House Committee were elected by ballot, and they in turn appointed their own chairman and secretary. The Housemaster was an *ex officio* member of the Committee and attended its meetings. The Committee was given a number of administrative problems to handle, as well as the organization of various sports and entertainment programmes. The serious manner in which they approached the problems presented to them and their suggestions, many of which were adopted, is an indication of what can be achieved in developing a very real sense of community responsibility.

Admissions and Discharges

	Admitted	Released
January	7	3
February	9	3
March	4	2
April	2	2
May	4	6
June	2	4
Carried forward	28	20

	Admitted	Released
Brought forward	28	20
July	4	3
August	3	4
September	4	7
October	7	4
November	7	5
December	6	4
Totals	59	47

Only six lads absconded during the course of the year, three of them within forty-eight hours of their reception. Four surrendered of their own accord and two were apprehended by the police. All were dealt with by the Courts for escaping legal custody. This is the lowest figure for absconding since the institution reopened in 1947.

The following table shows the ages of those received at the time of their reception:—

Age	Number	Age	Number
16 years	11	20 years	6
17 „	9	21 „	7
18 „	12	22 „	3
19 „	11		

The average age was 18.4 years.

The following table lists the offences for which youths were committed to New Haven:—

Armed robbery	1
Robbery with violence	1
Assault with intent to rob	1
Assault	3
Breaking and entering and theft	28
Breaking and entering with intent	2
Theft of auto	14
Taking auto without the owner's consent	2
Theft over $25	6
Theft under $25	2
Retaining stolen property	3
False pretences	1

The sentences of those committed to the institution during the year varied from a minimum sentence of three months definite plus six months indeterminate to a maximum of twelve months definite plus two years less one day indeterminate. This is felt to be far too great a spread in an institution where the accent is on training, and where the intention is not to make the punishment fit the crime, but rather the needs of the offender. Little can be achieved in the way of training in less than six months, and a considerably longer period is required for those youths who present serious behaviour problems. Nine months definite and eighteen months indeterminate would appear to be the most suitable length of sentence. This would allow for a training period at the institution of from nine to twelve months and would still leave a year or more to be served on parole under supervision.

The average length of the training period at the institution during 1953 was 8.6 months.

TRAINING

Vocational

Once a lad has passed through his initial orientation period, he is assigned to one of the four trade-training groups. The selection is made on the basis of the lad's interests,

aptitudes, and particular needs. When he is assigned to a group, he remains in that group, working eight hours a day, for the duration of his stay at the institution. The four trade-training groups comprise woodworking, metalwork, cooking and baking, and farming. In each of these trades, stress is laid on instilling sound work habits.

During the course of the year fourteen youths received training in the metal-shop. Here the initial training is designed to develop skills in filing, the use of measuring-tools, layout work, drilling, tapping and threading. As the trainee progresses, he is introduced to the operations of the drill-press, lathe, and shaper. With the development of increasing skills, he is given more advanced work and spends much of his time on repairs and maintenance of shop tools and machinery, farm machinery, and plumbing and heating equipment. Some lads with specialized interests take up acetylene welding and sheet-metal work.

Fourteen took their training in the wood-shop. Here a boy spends four to six weeks at the bench, learning the use of hand-tools and the importance of working to accurate measurements. Following this he starts on small projects where he can apply the knowledge he has already gained. When he has achieved sufficient proficiency, he is introduced to power tools—the circular saw, jointer, band-saw, jig-saw, planer, wood-lathe, drill-press, and sander. Stress is laid on the correct handling and safe operation of all machines, and his progress is watched carefully by competent instructors. As his skill increases, he is assigned to more difficult projects in keeping with his ability. Selected lads receive instruction in wood-finishing and french polishing.

Nineteen received their trade-training on the farm. Lads joining this group commence as labourers. As they progress, they are given jobs with some responsibility—feeding of and caring for the pigs, poultry, or dairy herd, learning to milk, or operate and maintain one of the two farm tractors. Lectures are given by the farm instructor on the care and handling of animals, maintenance of farm machinery, field crops and their proper rotation, the use of fertilizers, etc. One or two field-trips were organized during the year to well established dairy and hog farms. In the course of the summer a 4½-acre field was cleared, and one-half of our feed requirements were harvested from our own land. The farm party was also responsible for bulldozing a new playing-field and performing sundry maintenance tasks on the grounds and property.

Twelve lads received their training in the kitchen. Under the supervision of the cook instructor, they prepared over 42,000 meals and baked over 7,000 loaves of bread. A lad entering the cooking and baking trade spends his early months in the scullery as a dish-washer and dining-room attendant. He progresses to the kitchen proper, where he assists in the preparation and cooking of the meals and the baking of bread and pastries. On four afternoons a week he attends lectures on the theory of cooking and baking; the making-up of menus; balanced diets; the preparation of soups, sauces, and gravies; the cooking of entrée dishes; the preparation of desserts, cakes, and pastries; and the art of meat-cutting. A completely new kitchen unit was constructed by the Department of Public Works during the year to replace the old kitchen, which was totally inadequate for training purposes. It is hoped that we shall be able to move into the new kitchen early in 1954. The new unit will enable more lads to take up this trade. A surprising number of New Haven graduates have done exceptionally well in the cooking and baking trade, in hotels, on ships, in camps, and as short-order cooks in restaurants and cafés.

Educational

Formal education at New Haven is compulsory for all and takes place in the evenings after work is over. One and a half hours, three evenings a week, are set aside for classes. Instruction is by means of correspondence courses, obtained by special arrangement with the Correspondence Division of the Department of Education. The object of this programme is to provide a refresher course for those who have been way from school

for some time, to stimulate the intelligence, to broaden a lad's outlook, and, where possible, cultivate new interests.

Mr. Davies, in charge of the programme, reports:—

" During the year a total of ninety lads received courses from the Department of Education—sixty-nine in the High-school division and twenty-one in the Elementary. In addition to this, eight backward lads received special instruction from Mrs. Page, a Burnaby school-teacher with special training in teaching retarded pupils.

" The following table shows the nature and extent of the senior and elementary courses provided and the number enrolled in each division:—

" High School Division (Sixty-nine Students Enrolled)

English IX, X, XI, XII.	Auto Mechanics 91.
Mathematics IX, X, XI, XII.	Diesel Engineering 91.
Spanish.	Electricity 20.
Homemaking 10, 20.	Mechanical Drawing 10.
Agriculture 10, 100.	Industrial Mathematics.
Art 10, 39.	Steam Engineering Fourth Class.
Effective Living 10.	House Painting and Decorating.
Science 20.	Frame-house Construction.
Geography 91.	Radio and Wireless.
Social Studies 10, 20.	Fruit-growing.
Salesmanship.	Marine Navigation.

" Elementary Division (Twenty-one Students Enrolled)

English Grammar and Composition.	Geography.
Spelling and Writing.	Social Studies.
Arithmetic.	

" In reviewing the past year's work, it is encouraging to note the progress made by many of the students. Thirteen passed their first term test, four with over 80 per cent. Nine senior students completed courses at the institution and received certificates from the Department of Education. Some planned to continue their courses on release. One student, enrolled in Art 10, averaged over 92 per cent in his three term tests. Two semi-illiterates in the special group under Mrs. Page advanced to the stage where they could both read and write. The sense of achievement and added self-confidence gained through this accomplishment helped them a great deal in their adjustment to the general training programme of the institution.

"An important part of the educational programme is the library, consisting of some 1,100 volumes. The wide variety of reading-matter has served as a valuable aid in the training programme, not only as a source of reference for school-work, but as a means of broadening a lad's outlook, awakening new interests, and providing an enjoyable hobby. The library, situated as it is in the dormitory, is readily accessible to lads in their spare time.

" Extensive use is made of visual aids in the educational programme. Through the facilities of the Department of Education, the University of British Columbia, the National Film Board, and many private corporations and business enterprises, educational films. embracing a wide variety of cultural subjects, have been shown throughout the year."

Religious

Religious training is of vital importance and should hold first place in any system of character-training. We have been fortunate in having the services of Rev. W. D. Grant Hollingsworth as our Protestant chaplain for another year. Mr. Hollingworth's devotion

to his flock has won him the respect of all. We welcomed in the latter half of the year Rev. Father Malloy, who took over the Roman Catholic chaplaincy in October after an unsettled period during which we were without the regular ministrations of a priest. We are hopeful that Father Malloy will re-establish the high standard set by his many faithful predecessors.

Padre Hollingworth, reporting on his work at New Haven, writes:—

"As each Protestant lad is admitted to New Haven, he is interviewed by me for two reasons: First, to enable him to know the chaplain and to familiarize him with the help the chaplain is able to offer, and, secondly, to enable the chaplain to learn something of the religious background of the lad in order to be able to advise and counsel him during his stay at New Haven. All Protestant admissions during 1953 were thus interviewed soon after their arrival.

" From time to time, largely as a result of these interviews, requests are made by the lads to see the chaplain to discuss problems of various kinds. A number of these are specifically religious problems, and there have been also a number of requests for New Testaments and Bibles and religious literature.

" Religious discussion groups were held each Friday afternoon. For some months these were based on the ' Padre's Hour ' type of gathering which was used successfully in the armed forces. Discussion of the ABC's of the Christian faith and similar topics proved of great interest and evoked an encouraging response. Religious films were used also as a basis for discussion, and the experience gained in presenting the Christian message in this form has demonstrated its real worth. Some twenty-one films, loaned free of charge by the Vancouver Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, were shown during the course of the year. These were, in each case, followed by discussion, thus opening the way for a frank appraisal of the part which the Christian faith can play in a man's life.

" Services were conducted each Sunday morning, at which all Protestant lads were present. The reverent and attentive attitude of the assembled group on all such occasions is most impressive and gratifying and, with the attractive setting of the chapel, aids in an atmosphere most conducive to public worship. On the fourth Sunday of each month Rev. Harold Berry conducted the service, and his faithfulness and appropriate messages were much appreciated. The help of an interested friend, Frank Hicks, as organist was secured for the Sunday services, and over the Christmas season he trained a choir which rendered acceptable music on several occasions.

" One cannot measure the results of a chaplain's work by statistics, but if one is to judge by the response of the majority of the lads, it would appear evident that the chaplain has a vital share in the rehabilitation of youthful offenders."

Physical Education, Sport, and Athletics

All those who are physically fit participate in the Thursday evening physical-education classes under the leadership of Alex. Strain, an experienced gymnast and instructor. Stress is laid on those aspects of gymnasium work which combine co-ordination of mind and body. Many physically awkward lads have gained a great deal in poise and confidence through these classes. The senior group put on a very creditable gymnastic display at the annual sports day.

The two main team sports played at New Haven are basketball and softball. The wetness of the low-lying grounds unfortunately precludes football as a winter sport. The basketball season commences after Christmas, when practices are held after classes in the evening and on week-ends. During the season seven " away " games were played with outside teams in high-school gymnasiums, and two " at home " games were played in the New Haven gymnasium. The smallness of our gymnasium has been a serious handicap, and many teams have refused to play in it for fear of injury to their players.

There is no room for spectators, and those who have not been selected to play are not able to watch their own team in action and also miss the valuable experience of seeing and mixing with outside players.

Softball is our summer sport, and this year we fielded two strong teams which we entered in a small league along with two outside teams. Fourteen " at home " games were played on our own playing-field and two " away " games at Beaconfield Park.

The standard of sportsmanship in all these team sports was exceptionally high and was frequently remarked upon by outside teams. Playing with outsiders helps to place the lads on their best behaviour, but perhaps the strongest force in this respect was the high personal standard set by their coach and manager, J. A. Willox, sports supervisor on the New Haven staff.

Indoor tournaments, consisting of individual competitions in boxing, wrestling, horse-shoes, table-tennis, and darts, were held on the two major holidays—at Christmas and Easter. The House Committee ran these events under the guidance of a member of the staff, and all lads took part in something.

Once again on July 1st we held our annual field-day, and parents were invited to attend. All the lads in the institution were equally divided up into three teams, each team under the sponsorship of a member of the staff. Teams competed in fourteen track and field events with keen rivalry. The sports were followed by a picnic supper, provided by the visiting parents and augmented by the institution, on the grounds. Over 100 visitors were present. The behaviour of the lads, their thoughtfulness and attention to their visitors, did credit not only to themselves, but to New Haven.

For the fifth year in succession two ten-day camps were held at Camp Artaban on Gambier Island—one in the spring and the other in the fall of the year. Ten lads selected for the progress they had made in their training, and under the supervision of Mr. Willox, were taken by boat to the island. The lads spent their mornings at various work projects, repairing buildings, replacing the foundation under an ablution hut, lining the gymnasium with plywood, felling timber and cutting it up into firewood to supply next summer's fuel for the kitchen, etc. Their afternoons and evenings were free for organized recreation—swimming, boating, fishing, and hikes up the near-by mountain. These camps have a very definite value in the over-all training programme. Away from institutional routine for a period and released from some of the tensions which are bound to develop in a confined community, the supervisor in charge is often able to see lads in a new light and form very close relationships with them. The lads invariably return to the institution having profited from their short camping experience. Were it possible, an extension of this programme would, I feel, be beneficial.

Hobbies

It has long been recognized that hobbies afford a very necessary outlet for expression as well as providing a relaxing pastime. With this in mind, we have tried to expand our programme to include as many hobbies as possible. A high standard of workmanship, plus pride in achievement, has resulted in the institution having earned a high reputation for its skill in hobbycraft. A number of displays were entered in hobby shows throughout the year, the largest being the Pacific National Exhibition Hobby Show. The New Haven exhibit again drew high commendation and was awarded a bronze medal.

Two debates were held during 1953, both with the Burnaby Junior Chamber of Commerce. The New Haven team was fortunate in being awarded the decision in both of these contests.

HEALTH

The general health of the institution has been very satisfactory. There have been no epidemics, and the majority of the lads have built up their physiques and gained in

weight. Both Dr. Richmond, our medical officer and psychiatrist, and Mr. McAllister, our visiting psychologist, have been most regular in their attendance at the institution and have performed an invaluable service.

Dr. Richmond, in his summing-up of the year's work, reports:—

" The medical routine has been carried out as previously. This amounts to one weekly visit to New Haven by myself and the psychologist, with additional visits to sick inmates when necessary.

" Psychiatric reports have been submitted on each inmate as soon as possible after his admission to New Haven, preliminary screening in most cases having taken place at Oakalla. Those recommended for New Haven by psychiatric reports to the Court have been sent direct from the Court to New Haven, except in a few instances. Those recommended for New Haven following sentence have been screened by the Classification Board at Oakalla, which consists of the Deputy Warden in charge of treatment, the psychologist, and myself.

" The recent addition of a social worker to the New Haven staff has already proved of great help. The psychologist has continued to submit I.Q. and personality assessments and the results of interest and aptitude tests.

" The general health of the New Haven population has been very satisfactory. High standards of physique are aimed at in most instances, though two boys were recommended for New Haven with orthopaedic disability.

" Whenever possible, disabling surgical abnormalities have been relieved. An interesting and helpful venture has been initiated by an ear, nose, and throat specialist, Dr. Edward Lewison, who is also an expert in plastic surgery, which takes the form of correction of nasal disfigurements in the hope that morale improved thereby may assist in rehabilitation.

" The services of the encephalograph apparatus at the Crease Clinic have also been available to inmates requiring this type of investigation.

" The medical and nursing equipment has proved adequate, and dental treatment has been obtained when necessary.

" Once during the year a full sanitary inspection was carried out by the sanitarian of the New Westminster area and myself. Some recommendations were made. On the whole, the impression of sanitary efficiency was favourable.

" It is pleasing to note that the new kitchen will be in operation within the next few weeks. A satisfactory standard of living for the inmates has been maintained. The inmates have gained weight almost without exception. One boy was kept under observation for possible tuberculosis infection. He had a long history of chest infection but was found to be free of tuberculosis. Close co-operation of the Division of Tuberculosis Control in New Westminster is obtained, as is also that of the TB. Control unit in Oakalla and of the V.D. Control clinic.

" Bedding, nourishment, and clothing have been satisfactory.

" The following are the medical statistics for the year: 248 examinations, 14 escorted to Oakalla for treatment, 33 admitted to New Haven infirmary, 6 admitted to city hospitals, 1 appendectomy, 1 tonsillectomy, 1 shoulder operation (recurrent dislocation), 1 herniotomy, 2 eye operations, 1 circumcision, 2 nasal operations (at Oakalla Prison hospital), 22 X-rays (limbs), 7 eye examinations, 4 dentures, 4 fitted with glasses, 36 examined by specialists."

Mr. McAllister reports:—

" Psychological testing has been conducted at New Haven over the past year with three main objectives in view: (1) To obtain an estimate of the trainees' general mental ability; (2) to arrive at an approximate judgment of the trainees' degree of personality disturbance and stability; and (3) to obtain an outline of the trainees' apparent work interests.

" To facilitate the attainment of these objectives, various tests were used in conjunction with a short interview.

" The mental ability test was generally a group type, though an individual form was employed when a more refined estimate was required; the personality and interest tests were of the group variety, too.

" Group tests were considered advisable in order to conserve time, as only one afternoon each week was available for this service.

" These objectives were set, of course, in the hope that they would provide information of assistance in planning treatment and training within the institution and possibly beyond the institutional confines."

STAFF

There were three changes in staff throughout the year. D. G. Hosgood resigned in June and N. E. McLeish in November, both to take up appointments in other fields. We welcomed V. H. Goad, who was appointed to the staff in October as a social worker.

Staff-training under the direction of Professor E. K. Nelson continued during 1953 in the form of weekly seminars. These were well attended and very much appreciated by the members of the staff.

Once again I cannot report too highly on the co-operation and loyalty of the various members of the staff. They have worked together as a harmonious team in the best interests of the institution. This spirt of co-operation and willingness to help wherever necessary has undoubtedly had its effect on the lads under training. As in former years, many members have come in during their own free time to interest small groups of lads in various activities—track and field training, coaching teams, dramatics, leathercraft, debates, the Christmas-toy shop, and week-end camps. This type of informal contact in off-duty hours has played a very valuable part in the life of the community.

PAROLE BOARD

The Board of Parole, under the chairmanship of Oscar Erickson, has met monthly at New Haven throughout the year. Mr. Stade, bursar of the institution, has acted as secretary.

All cases coming before the Board have received the utmost consideration. The members have indicated that their prime consideration is the ultimate welfare of the individual lad and his return to society as a useful citizen. The co-operation and assistance of the Chairman and members of the Board have been greatly appreciated and have helped in no small way to strengthen the work of the institution.

AFTER-CARE

Lads released on licence from New Haven come under the authority and supervision of the British Columbia Borstal Association. This association is now in its sixth year. Financed solely by voluntary subscriptions, it depends entirely on the goodwill of its friends and supporters and the public at large for the continuance of its work. The fact that it has not just managed to survive but has increased its membership, opened new branch units throughout the Province, provided the secretary with much-needed clerical help, increased the number of loans to lads in need of temporary assistance, and cut down the incidence of recidivism is an indication not only of the general health and vigour of the association, but also of the esteem in which it is held by those who know something of the good work that it is performing.

At its annual meeting in November, 1953, the association was able to report that in the last four years 153 young men came under its supervision, " of whom close to 80 per cent have made, or are making, a successful readjustment." This is a noteworthy record and is an indication of the type of service the association is performing.

After-care is not something that commences once an inmate has been released from an institution, it is a continuous process which really starts the day a youth is sentenced. It is only in this way that those responsible for his supervision on release can get to know and understand him and form the basis of a relationship without which little can be achieved.

The association is very fortunate in having as its field secretary John D. Rickaby. On this man falls the heavy task of meeting the lads when they are committed to New Haven, getting to know them, following their progress through the institution, selecting a suitable sponsor for them as their day of release approaches, arranging for suitable employment for them, and finally escorting each lad to his destination on the day of his release. Along with this goes the daily routine of the association's office, seeing the lads already on licence, recording the results of interviews, writing to those who report semi-monthly by letter, assisting the many sponsors who call upon him for advice and counsel in connection with the lads they are sponsoring, keeping the members of the thirty-two branch units, scattered all over the Province, informed of the work the association is doing, and keeping up the membership of the association by interesting outsiders in the work. This would be an impossible task for one man to perform were he not backed up by a strong board of directors and a group of enthusiastic sponsors ready to assist wherever possible.

Under the guidance of the chairman, Horace Keetch, four energetic committees operate, representing the four major aspects of the association's work—employment, sponsorship, finance, and publicity. Each committee has its chairman and members, all members of the board of directors. The committees have done an outstanding job during the year and have greatly eased the load of the field secretary.

I cannot praise too highly the work of the Borstal Association, nor can I express my gratitude fully to the chairman, Mr. Keetch, Mr. Rickaby, the members of the board of directors, and the sponsors for the co-operation and loyalty which they have shown to me and to the institution. I am deeply indebted to them.

In conclusion I should like gratefully to acknowledge the kindness of all those friends of the institution who have assisted in so many ways throughout the year, Mrs. Hunt and the members of the Vancouver Women's Forum, the General Council of the A.O.T.S., the Provincial probation department, the John Howard Society, the National Employment Service, to name but a few. I am most grateful for the advice and assistance that I have always received from Colonel Pepler, Deputy Attorney-General; Mr. Selkirk, Departmental Comptroller; Mr. Stevens, Inspector of Gaols, and his head-quarters staff, as well as for the co-operation and courtesy always extended me by the Warden of Oakalla and his senior staff.

VICTORIA, B.C.
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