



"ONLY KIDDING"—When Junkman Harry Haigh of Victoria, B.C., bought a 12-room Tudor-style mansion next door to the Lieutenant-Governor's house, he announced he would make it a home for down-and-outers. There was an immediate outcry. Haigh then said he was "only kidding" and that he would add apartments in the top floor later when the B.C. city gets around to changing a zoning by-law which now prohibits alterations to homes in the area. Haigh, unsuccessful mayoralty candidate last December, faces a charge of illegally storing junk at his other residence. (CP PHOTO)

Britain's Prison Conditions Appalling, Survey Shows Overcrowding, Under-Staffed

By EDWIN S. JOHNSON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

LONDON (CP) — Hard-pressed in other fields, Britain now finds herself in urgent need of more prisons.

The disclosure, made in a recent parliamentary report, has brought a demand for improved accommodation and a full-scale inquiry into allegations of "appalling" conditions of overcrowding, under-staffing, lack of discipline and violence in the country's penitentiaries and jails.

The survey, prepared by a House of Commons select committee on estimates, places the present prison population at about 25,000—highest for more than 60 years. Available accommodation, however, normally would house no more than 12,000 offenders.

In February of this year, 4500 male prisoners were sleeping three together in cells designed for one, a practice condemned by witnesses as "unhealthy and disgusting." At Wandsworth jail, which reported the severest overcrowding, more than 500 prisoners were sleeping three to a cell.

"While there is no evidence that this situation has resulted in any deterioration in health, the danger of rapid spread of epidemics grows more acute as overcrowding increases," the report says.

The committee discloses that the cost of operating the country's chain of prisons during the current financial year will come to some £7,000,000. It recommends, however, that new prisons should be built without delay. Pending their completion and as a temporary expedient, it is suggested military huts should be taken over and converted into prison camps.

The Home Office has agreed to test the plan.

It was found that in most prisons there is a hard core of trouble-makers, diagnosed as "aggressive psychopaths." Special security measures were necessary to cope with breach of discipline encouraged by these ring-leaders.

LIFE TOO ATTRACTIVE

As a result the working week in some prisons was reduced as low as 18 hours with an inevitable drop in production.

E. Wathall, secretary of the Parkhurst Prison Officers' Association, reported that special privileges were extended to some prisoners under an old act. Their cells, he said, were not locked until 8 o'clock at night and they were allowed what is called a "fry up," from meat and potatoes saved from meals served during the day.

Evidence was given that prisoners spend as much time in leisure, just sitting around, smoking, playing cards, listening to the radio or reading the newspapers, as they do at work.

"Prison life is far too attractive," Mr. Wathall observed.

The governor of Parkhurst Prison, P. A. Marriott, said that flogging had never been abolished in jails. It was rarely ordered, however, and the "regular boarders" were aware of that.

Asked if attacks on the staff had become more frequent as a result, he replied: "Yes. Prisoners now would not hesitate that would have hesitated before."

Police Use Syringe to Detect Purple Gasoline

All RCMP detachments in British Columbia are being supplied with clear glass syringes to be used in attempts to detect motorists using "purple" commercial gasoline.

The use of syringes is not new in this area, officials here said today, adding that several motorists have been caught using this type of gasoline which is sold to fishermen, farmers and loggers for use on highways.

Tax on purple gasoline is only one cent a gallon, compared to 11 cents for highway gasoline.

It is believed that in some cases persons buying gas for fishboats or farm machinery are using it in their private automobiles and selling it to their friends.

Trucks and cars are spot-checked at various times along the highway. Because of the purple color, illegal gas will be easier to detect in clear syringes.

Under the Gasoline Tax Act, penalty for the first offence is a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$100, or in default 15 days to three months in prison.

Youth Rally Opens Congress at Citadel

Young people of all religious denominations are invited to a youth rally which opens here on Friday at the Salvation Army Citadel on the first night of the annual native congress meetings.

Commissioner W. R. Dalziel, accompanied by Senior Captains E. Parr and Ken Rawlins arrive in Prince Rupert Friday morning to conduct the meetings.

They come direct to Prince Rupert from Old Orchard in the state of Maine, U.S.A., where they have been conducting a youth fellowship camp for young men and women of the eastern U.S.

Commissioner Dalziel is the leader of The Salvation Army in all Canada and a man who has great faith in young people. He has been concentrating on the appointment of young men and women to responsible positions in The Salvation Army in Canada, since he took command in June, 1951.

Captains Parr and Rawlins are excellent musicians with outstanding personalities. Their combination of the soprano E. flat cornet and piano accordion is unique and they are called upon for many large youth rallies sponsored by Youth For Christ and similar organizations in eastern Canada.

Prince Rupert Daily News
Thursday, August 28, 1952

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- Drink Juices for Health**
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 - GRAPEFRUIT JUICE—Malkin's Best, 20-oz. **2 for 27c**
 - APPLE JUICE—Sunrype, Clear, 48-oz. **33c**
 - TOMATO JUICE—Libby's, Fancy, 20-oz. **2 for 35c**
- CANNED VEGETABLES**
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