

July 1, 1928

Warden James B. Holohan,
San Quentin, California.

My dear Warden Holohan:

Herewith I submit the report of the Educational, Library, and Religious Activities for the biennium ending June 30, 1928.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The space used for the Library and Chapel and Educational Work has been remodeled during the biennium and the activities centering there are carried on much more efficiently and to a greater extent than previously. The space is being used up to its maximum, and we greatly need additional space.

EDUCATIONAL.

During the biennium the prison population increased thirty-four percent. The increase in bonafide enrollments in educational work was ninety-three percent. All educational activities are voluntary.

Women's Prison.

The completion of the new Women's Prison has made it possible for many of the women to take up studies, with the result that approximately thirty-five percent of the women are taking correspondence instruction under the direction of this department.

Road Camps.

Since the establishment of the new Road Camps, some of the men there have continued the studies commenced while here. There are students in every one of the seven Camps. In two of the Camps, men who taught here, have organized classes which are conducted after work at night and on Sunday.

Instruction.

Instruction in San Quentin is given in Classes and by means of Correspondence by inmate assistants.

Classes.

Classes are conducted in the Chapel five afternoons a week, and in five large dormitory rooms five nights a week. The purpose of these classes is to take the men having the least formal schooling and to carry their instruction to the point where they can continue their studies in the correspondence courses. The instruction is planned for short-unit courses of twelve weeks, with an intermission of one week following the completion of each term. Thus, we operate throughout the year. In the six terms which we have been operating under this plan, our Chapel classes have enrolled 381, and 268, or 70% of that number, have completed the prescribed courses. The proportion of completions would have been larger but changes of work, assignments to Road Camps, paroles and discharges have been the causes of men discontinuing their studies.

Special Classes.

At the present time we are giving special instruction Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings to more ad-

vanced students in English, Shop Arithmetic, Electricity, Algebra, Trigonometry, Navigation, Soil Management, Vegetable Gardening and Dairy Management.

Foreign Languages. We give instruction in conversational French, German and Spanish. Spanish is by far the most popular foreign language. In two years, 312 men have completed the courses in Spanish and can make themselves understood and also can understand others in the language. One hundred nineteen Spanish speaking inmates have made such progress in the English language that they can speak and read English fairly well.

Shorthand. Two classes are conducted in Shorthand, at the noon hour and immediately following. The enrollments in this subject have to be restricted on account of class space and time for instruction. Eleven of the students now are able to take dictation at a rate of speed ranging of from 60 to 100 words per minute. The subject was new to all of them a few months ago.

Letter Box Courses. The largest enrollments are in our Local Correspondence or "Letter Box" Courses. We offer the following courses: Arithmetic, four; English, four; Geography, four; English for Spanish-speaking people, two; Spanish for English-speaking, two; Civics, two; Orthography, two; Penmanship, eight; Soil Management, Vegetable Gardening and Dairy Management, one course each. The three courses last named have been added during the last fiscal year. The revision of all of the courses

mentioned has accomplished the thing most desired: a greater number of men complete the courses than formerly was the case, although the subject matter contained in the courses is wider in its scope.

University Of
California Courses.

The University of California continues to give the correspondence courses listed in the Extension Division Catalogue. That this privilege is appreciated by the men is made evident by the fact that the average monthly lesson return for the biennium was 751. The course-enrollments number 2161; the course-completions 946. The record made by our students is one of which they well may be proud. The accompanying graph shows the record made during a period of 12 months. The ages of the students range from 20 to 67. In the table is shown the total number of students, the number in each age group, the total number of lessons submitted by all students and the average for each student. Shown under the appropriate headings, are the numbers of students and their years of formal schooling -- ranging from 5 to 18 years -- prior to coming to San Quentin.

Quality Of Work
Done By Students.

The grading of papers was done by University instructors who do not know the students, except through the work submitted. It will be noted that there were only 31 "F", or Failure, marks in 8637 papers graded by University readers, while 4904, or nearly 57%, were marked "A", or the

^{mark}
highest used in grading.

Caution.

Unwarranted inferences should not be drawn

from this tabulation. It does not indicate either that the student possesses superior mental ability or that the courses of study are very easy to master. However, it does indicate interest and earnestness on the part of the students, and clarity

AGES	STUDENTS	LESSONS	GRADES						LESSONS PER STUDENT	YEARS OF EDUCATION																	
			A	B	C	D	E	F		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18				
20-25	120	2832	1355	804	447	153	55	17	23.5	3	3	7	30	20	26	9	11	5	5	1							
26-30	102	2394	1532	656	328	120	49	8	23.4	1	4	4	32	19	10	7	15	4	2	1	2				1		
31-35	63	1285	685	375	159	54	8	1	20.4	1	3	2	24	5	4	5	9	2	4	1	1	2					
36-40	41	1282	757	297	157	47	24	5	31.2	2	2	4	9	4	5	3	5	1	3		2			1			
41-45	19	334	200	73	28	21	12		17.5	1	2	1	6	1	1	1	3	2				1					
46-50	15	255	178	54	21		2		17.0			1	4	2	1		2	1	1		3						
51 up	10	255	101	55	49	36	14		25.5	1	1		1		2		2	1	1		1						
ALL	370	8637	4924	2314	1169	431	164	31	23.3	9	15	19	106	51	49	25	47	16	16	3	10	2	2				

GRADES given by University of California Extension Division to San Quentin students during a twelve month period. More than ninety courses are represented in the tabulation. YEARS OF EDUCATION prior to sentence to San Quentin.

of expression and holding power in the University courses.

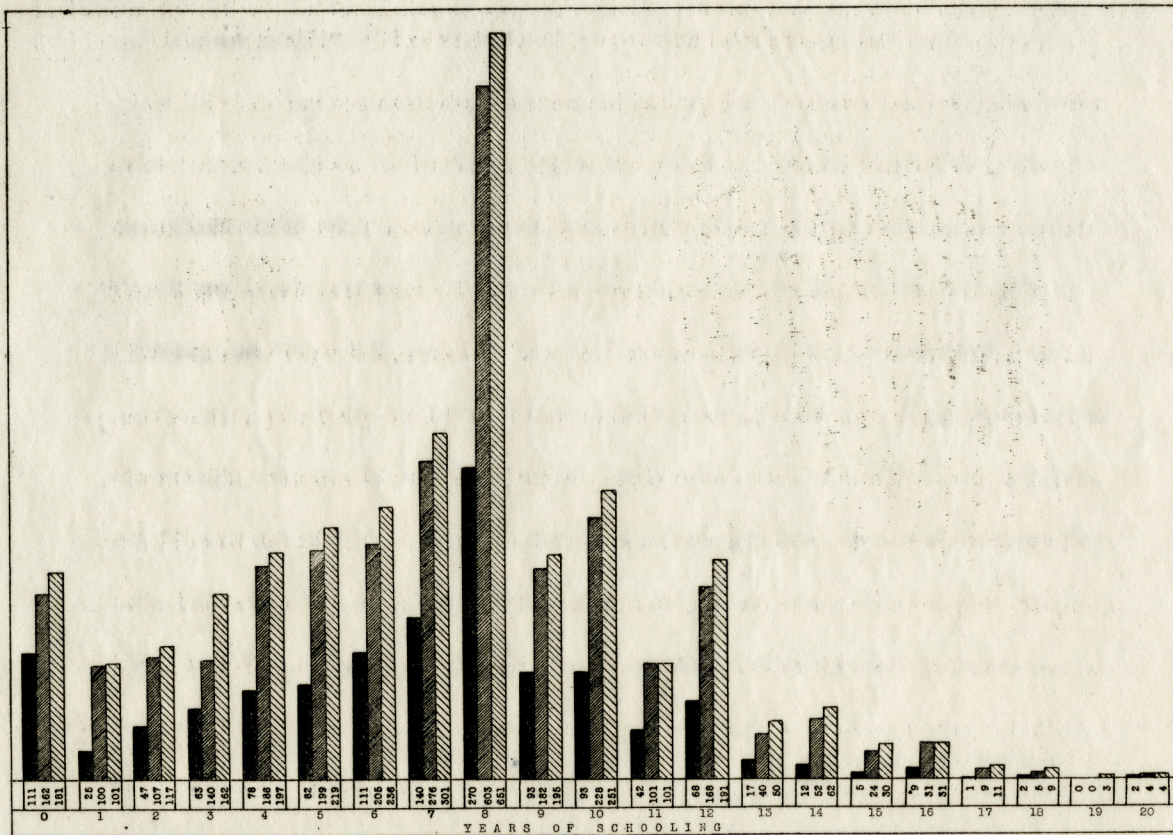
Text Books.

The library of Educational Text Books is bet-

ter equipped than ever before. The State Department of Education continues its helpful cooperation by supplying State Text Books upon request.

Formal Schooling
Of Inmates.

Included as part of this report is a graph showing the formal schooling of inmates prior to sentence to San Quentin, and the actual and probable minimum sentence of



Years of schooling, prior to sentence to San Quentin, 0 to 20. The sum of the numbers under columns 1 and 3, over each of the above numbers, is the total population of San Quentin and the Road Camps as of June 30, 1928. Column 1 represents the proportion of prisoners with a minimum sentence of 5 years; column 3 a minimum of 1 year; column 2 is the probable proportion of column 3 who will receive sentences of from 3 to 50 years. The sum of columns 1 and 2 is the population who will serve at least three years in San Quentin, based on ten years average for fifty crimes.

93% of the 4376 prisoners indicated. Approximately one-fourth of them have had less than five years of elementary schooling.

Approximately fifty percent have had less than eight years -- which is supposed to be the minimum schooling necessary for ordinary social efficiency. The average formal schooling of the entire population is seven years.

Social Efficiency. A tabulated story of the economic efficiency of these men would indicate that comparatively few have been trained in any business, profession or trade requiring preparation comparable to trade apprenticeship. Take this fact in connection with the lack of mental training and it becomes evident that we have here an opportunity, and, an obligation to the State, to make it possible for the men to fit themselves for more useful careers when they return to Society. That this can be done, and that the men will respond to a constructive appeal to their self-interest is demonstrated by the table showing the result of the work in the University Division. The local class and correspondence instruction records show similar results.

Return To
Society.

Probably more than ninety percent of the men now in San Quentin will be returned to Society, after collectively spending, as a minimum, more than 15,000 years of time here. It is possible for them to go back better trained mentally, manually and morally. It is possible to so connect up our present prison industries and the educational work that they may work as a constructive whole.

Teachers.

This, of course, would require vocational

teachers who can make job-analyses of industrial work and establish checking-levels to insure that individuals shall be trained systematically in that work. Without the addition of a single industry, it is possible to analyze several of our industries so that they can be conducted on a trade basis.

Expense.

The expense connected with such a project would be a trifle when the social benefit is considered. To make a beginning in this work, two vocational teachers could be secured at an expense that would add about \$1.20 per annum, or ten cents per month, to the average per capita expense of maintenance of inmates of San Quentin.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

In order that the possibilities of training for better citizenship may be realized and extended, and that our obligation to the State may be met, so that the man in confinement and the Social order to which he will return both may profit, I make the following recommendations.

1. That illiterates be required, as the first duty, to acquire a working knowledge of the fundamental "tools of education" (reading, writing, arithmetic) ^{skilling} as a means of social activity;
2. That men unskilled in any business or trade be required to acquire some skill that will contribute to their economic efficiency;
3. That adequate facilities for the realization of

this program be provided, consisting of:

(a) a building capable of housing the activities of the classes, the libraries, and for use for religious, educational and other inspirational purposes;

(b) a corps of certificated teachers to conduct the classes and vocational activities.

4. That a beginning in this larger program be made by securing two additional teachers for the next fiscal year.

THE LIBRARY.

The number of books is approximately 12,000.

During the biennium, 2817 books have been added to the Library; 3217 have been sent to the Road Camps, Tubercular Ward, Old Men's Ward and have been discarded.

Additions.

We are especially indebted to the "SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE", the "MECHANICS INSTITUTE LIBRARY OF SAN FRANCISCO" and to the "OAKLAND POST-ENQUIRER" for large donations of books. The last named publication gave us more than 1300 new books.

"THE SAN FRANCISCO NEWS COMPANY" continues to send great quantities of magazines at regular intervals.

Circulation.

The average circulation of books and magazines for the biennium has been 5055 books and 4306 magazines per month. Owing to the crowded condition of the prison, it is safe to say that each one of these publications is read by at least two indi-

viduals before being returned to the Library.

State Library.

The California State Library at Sacramento

has given most valuable cooperation in supplying books on special subjects. The average number of books per month from this source has been 240; the classification being: Useful Arts, 23%; Sociology, 22%; History and Travel, 20%; Fine Arts, 15%; Philosophy and Psychology, 10%; Science, 5%; Foreign Language, 3%; Sports and Amusements, 2%.

RELIGIOUS
ACTIVITIES.

The various Religious and Social Agencies have

continued their services as in past years. There have been a few changes among the personnel of the visiting Chaplains, but the quality of the work has not suffered. The following are the names of the regular visitors to San Quentin and the Churches or Organizations which they represent: Catholic Church, the Reverend Fathers William A. Fleming, John C. Mills and Raymond W. Kenney; Episcopal Church, the Reverend Father Kenneth Viall; Rabbi Rudolph I. Coffee and Mr. S. G. Holcenburg for the Jewish people; Mr. S. Hamauchi, and the Japanese Salvation Army Corps for Japanese; Reverend A. V. Lucero for Spanish-speaking people; Rev. T. M. Davis for the colored people; the Reverend Frederick H. Menzel and the Reverend R. U. Evjenth, Lutheran; Elder Andrew Brorsen, Seventh Day Adventist; Adj. C. E. Stairs, Salvation Army; Captain H. J. Kleefisch, Volunteers of America; Messrs. Carl Lehman and Glen Byers, Christian Science; Messrs. Sommers and Greenbaum

lecture on Theosophy; Mr. Leon C. Osteyee, Superintendent of Evangelistic and Prison Work for the California Christian Endeavor Union, and Mr. Stuart Thompson, of the same Society, are regular visitors to the local Christian Endeavor meetings.

The services are maintained as formerly and the schedule follows:

First Sunday

8:30	9:00 A.M.	Christian Endeavor
9:30	10:00 A.M.	Lutheran Service
10:45	11:00 A.M.	Scandinavian Service
12:00	Noon	Christian Science

Second Saturday

2:00 P.M. Jewish Service

Second Sunday

8:30 A.M.	Catholic Service
9:30 A.M.	Christian Endeavor
10:30 A.M.	Salvation Army
12:00 NOON	Japanese Service

Third Sunday

8:30 A.M.	Episcopal Service
9:30 A.M.	Christian Endeavor
10:30 A.M.	Christian Endeavor (Visiting)
12:00 NOON	Christian Science

Fourth Sunday

8:30 A.M.	Catholic Service
9:30 A.M.	Christian Endeavor
9:30 A.M.	Spanish Service (Bi-Monthly)
10:45 A.M.	Theosophical Society
12:00 NOON	Volunteer Prison League.

Fifth Sunday

9:30 A.M. Seventh Day Adventists Service
10:45 A.M. Christian Endeavor
11:45 A.M. Colored Prot. Service.

In addition to conducting the above scheduled services, the representatives visit the prison at stated times and hold personal interviews with those who may wish to have them.

PERSONNEL SERVICE. The growth of the prison population and the increase of activities have made it necessary to increase the personnel of this department from 33 to 49. The men -- with few exceptions -- have shown highly commendable and intelligent interest in the work given to them to do. One of the problems of maintaining an orderly program of activities is caused by the many changes in the personnel. In this department there have been 129 changes during the biennium.

The monthly average of routine work during the biennium has been 136 entering statements; the names of 48 inmates have been reported to War Veterans' Agencies; and the names of 37 aliens to Immigration Authorities.

The director has reported cases for family relief to State Authorities for 49 inmates monthly; has given 59 notarial services, and, for the entire time, has given assistance in the solution of between 20 and 30 personal problems per day.

COOPERATION. The cooperation of the operating personnel and the methods of doing the work of the prison have improved and

the results are more satisfactory than at any time within my knowledge.

I wish to record my appreciation of the co-operation which I have received from you, from the guards and officers of the prison, and from the Board of Prison Directors.

Yours very sincerely,