

II. COLLECTIVE OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

It should be borne in mind that every single boy needs individual attention. He has his own problems, sometimes bordering on the tragic. If you get to know him, then you may help him over a difficult period.

There is a tendency to get rid of a very difficult boy, by transferring him to the Senior Training School, for the convenience of the staff. This is wrong, it will be hard but rewarding work if he can be retained. Some of the most difficult boys have turned out the best.

The officer who is not really fond of children and cannot find pleasure in their company is not a suitable person to train and teach them.

If a boy is misjudged or blamed unjustly, no time should be lost in putting it right, even by a humble apology on the part of the officer. Thereby he gains the boys' respect. A boy should never be misinformed, if the officer does not know the answer to a question, he should tell him so, and then find out for him. The boy will appreciate it.

Boys as a rule are mimicks and will be taught more by example. The officers' home life is keenly watched and compared with their own.

The boys are hungry for information. Their most prized possessions are an old dictionary, an almanac or an encyclopaedia. The Bermuda Library has provided the school with an up-to-date library of several hundred books which they frequently supplement. It is very much used by the boys and is a great success.

One of the officers should be a certified schoolmaster. The type of boy we have is too rough for a woman teacher. She requires disciplinary assistance from the officers which is not always available.

The educational results obtained from the boys in the past have been sub-standard, owing to the employment of uncertified teachers during various periods.

The best periods of the last 25 years at Nonsuch have been when we were fortunate in having certified male school teachers. Outstanding were Mr. R. B. Doering (seven years), and Mr. Chas. Violet (two years).

Any outstanding student is hampered by the attention of the teacher being given solely to the difficult boys. This situation would be overcome by a specially qualified resident school teacher.

The few officers available should be very versatile and well-picked. Nonsuch boys have developed successful trades as hospital attendants, cooks, hotel workers, and barbers (the Matson's training) and as seamen, carpenters, masons, and agricultural workers. The basic training in these vocations, which fit so well into Bermuda's economy, has been obtained at Nonsuch.

The excellent playing field which has been completed by the boys should be made full use of by more sports program. One member of the staff should be a younger man capable of coaching the lads in all fields of sport. At the present time there is no organized sport whatsoever

"The need for a proper playing field and another master qualified to supervise the trainees' leisure and games continued to be felt" the 1953 Report of the Treatment of Offenders Commissioners.

~~Existingly~~ I strongly recommend that the existing quarters in Fort Cunningham are not habitable. I recommend that a new building be built on the west end of Paget Island and the Fort be used for other activities-- workshops, Chapel, and school.

The fabric of the Fort has deteriorated beyond successful renovation.

The new building should be a self-contained unit-- sick bay, sleeping quarters, kitchen, and recreation room.

Respectfully submitted,

A. St. Geo. Tucker, M. B. E.