

NATIONAL PROBATION and PAROLE ASSOCIATION

formerly NATIONAL PROBATION ASSOCIATION



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March 1, 1948

Dear Alan Paton:

I have been waiting to write you about your truly beautiful book until I could assemble a few review notices to send. Perhaps you have already had them from other people, but if not I know you would like to read and keep them. I find myself wanting to quote some of them in writing you! Truly you have done a rare thing in writing this book and I am sure it will be widely read and for many years to come. I marvel when I think how much of it you wrote in the midst of the tedium of day-coach travel, and the loneliness of a hotel room in a strange city. I, myself, have bought several copies, and I am sending some *on loan* to friends. One I have cached away for myself and one is ~~enroute~~ to a number of people — quite a line-up by this time. I am going to have someone review it for our new magazine, Focus, although we do not ordinarily review novels.

I do hope your financial returns from the book will make it possible for you to come back and visit us soon.

Your statement in your last letter about leaving your work with the reformatory certainly aroused my curiosity. I am using your old box number as an address since I am not sure how else to reach you. Are you now devoting yourself to writing?

We have combined two of our former publications into one, an enlarged magazine which still is not what I wish we had money enough to produce. We call it Focus and I am trying to make it of interest to other than strictly professional people. I am sending you separately copies of the January and March issues. The January issue was very late in getting out. The printer got into a snarl with one difficulty after another, and altogether it took five weeks for the final printing process. It is a bimonthly and I am hoping to have the March issue out this week.

We are having our next annual conference in Atlantic City about the middle of April. It will be an especially large one because the National Conference of Social Work with which we are affiliated is celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary.

Albert Deutsch of PM has been writing a scorching series of articles on the handling of children in our state training schools. All of the criticism is merited, and of course what he says is merely an indication of what actually exists in many parts of the country. The discouraging thing is, as he points out, that changes do not last. It seems to be always possible to have a good



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regime upset by a new political gang.

Tell Mrs. Paton she has reason to be very proud of you, and I am sure she is. Perhaps she can come with you on your next trip. I should be most happy to meet her.

Cordially yours

Margie Bell

MB/BR

The Alan Paton Centre
& Struggle Archives