

17. LATVIA

Area in sq. miles	41,000
Population	2,000,000
Capital	Riga
Population of Capital	338,000

Latvia has no probation law, only parole for minors and adults.
There are no paid trained probation officers, but some voluntary social workers do such work.
There are no juvenile courts.
There are legalised patronage societies.

The return herewith was issued to me by the Ministry of Justice at Riga. It was written in English and dated 29th July 1926. It refers to "parole," or release on probation after a portion of the punishment has been satisfactorily served.

1. There is a probation law, viz.—
2. The Law of Conditional Remission of Punishment, of 12th January 1922.
3. The law is applicable to all lawbreakers, minors and adults—such as are handed over to a house of correction as well as those who are sentenced to a penalty not harder than imprisonment—provided that the offenders have not been previously punished for a "great crime" or a "crime," and that the term of limitation (five to ten years) has not yet expired. Release on probation is not valid in cases prosecuted by lawsuit, nor in matters concerning the exchequer.
4. The court of law is entitled to place the offenders on probation. How far their freedom can be limited, and under whom they are placed on probation, are not provided for by the law.
According to a Ministerial Decree of 25th February 1925, the "patronage societies" legalised by the Government are in the first place appointed to exercise the control. They are authorised to control the offenders released on probation, not only through their own members, but also through other persons of good reputation. They are also entitled to control offenders' freedom of movement and their intercourse. The persons exercising this control have to follow the orders of the judicial verdict.
5. There are no probation officers in Latvia.
6. The court of law can at any time order law breakers to be examined or observed medically.
7. The examinations and observations mentioned in point 6 take place in hospitals or lunatic asylums that are governmental, communal or municipal institutions under the care of the Home Department.
8. The medical examination or observation takes place after the trial.
9. A special scheme of intelligence tests is not used.

10. There are no special institutions for observation of the mental and physical conditions of law breakers.