

4. BULGARIA

Area in sq. miles	40,000
Population	5,000,000
Capital	Sofia
Population of Capital	154,000

Bulgaria has no probation law. There is a law for release from prison, etc., on parole, 21st February 1896.

There are no probation officers. The police and village mayors supervise released prisoners.

There are no juvenile courts.

Two societies exist to combat juvenile delinquency.

The following information, written in English and dated 20th May 1925, came through the good offices of M. Vladimir N. Avramoff, on behalf of the Minister of Justice. It refers to what the Americans call "release on parole" rather than to "release on probation" as we understand it. In the case of "parole" the offender has already served a portion of his prison sentence before being released on "parole." In "release on probation" the offender does not go to prison at all, unless he is brought to court again for breaking the conditions imposed on him during his term of probation. When he keeps the conditions for the term specified, his punishment is remitted altogether.

i. There is a law in Bulgaria which permits the release on probation of individuals condemned by the courts. The articles of the law which refer to this subject are as follows:

Art. 20. Those incarcerated in strict confinement may be released before the term of imprisonment is up, on the following conditions:

i. Those incarcerated in strict confinement, condemned to more than five years' terms of imprisonment, after having served three-fourths of the sen-

tence inflicted, may, in consideration of their good conduct, be removed from the category of hard labour, to work of their own choice.

2. Those incarcerated in strict confinement, condemned to a term of imprisonment not exceeding five years or to a term of simple imprisonment, must serve at least one year in prison or three-fourths of the sentence inflicted.

Individuals condemned to strict life-confinement may be released on probation after they have served at least fifteen full years of their sentence.

Art. 21. Individuals who have been condemned for a second time for theft, pillage, imposition, usurpation, concealment, fraud and arson cannot be released on probation.

Art. 22. Individuals released on probation are placed under the supervision of the police until the expiration of the time-limit of the sentence.

Art. 23. Release on probation may at any time be rescinded, if the individuals concerned do not comply with the conditions under which they have been released, in which case the time on probation shall not be counted in the term of imprisonment.

Prisoners whose release on probation has been rescinded cannot be released again on probation, and are sent back to prison in their original status in conformity with the sentence.

The term of punishment is considered as completed if it expires before revocation of the release on probation.

Art. 24. Release on probation and its revocation take place upon the order of the Minister of Justice, based upon the opinion of a committee constituted of the following persons *ex officio*: the president of the local district court or a person who is vested with the right to deputise for him; the district attorney of the same court; the director of the prison; the prison priest; and an alderman of the local municipality.

The members of the committee are convoked by the president of the district court, who also presides over the conferences.

Release on probation is based upon definite proofs by the prison authorities and by the district attorney himself of the good conduct and diligence of the prisoner.

Art. 25. The form of the certificates for release on probation is to be established by the Ministry of Justice by special regulations.

2. The institutions of release on probation in Bulgaria, as described above, are established by the general penal code law, Arts. 20-25. The penal code dates from 21st February 1896.

3. The law is applicable to all persons regardless of their age, whenever conditions apply.

4. In conformity with Art. 22 of the law, individuals released on probation are placed under the supervision of the police in the towns and cities and of the mayors in the villages. No other supervising organs exist.

5. There are no special probation officers.

6. The offenders are subjected to a psychiatric examination whenever it is deemed necessary.

7. Such examination is made in the psychiatric institutions.

8. Examinations take place before or during the trial.

9. No special plan for examination exists. It is left entirely with the expert physicians.

10. There are three similar institutions in the country to which offenders may be sent for examination.

11. There is no special educational course of study for training probation officers.

12. Only the court may refer offenders for examination.

13. There is no association of probation officers.

14. There are no probation officers, on salary or without.

The insufficiency of the above law is felt in Bulgaria, especially with regard to minors of bad conduct and junior delinquents (young criminals).

Two societies have been founded to combat junior delinquency, one in Sofia and the other in Philippopolis, which aim at establishing special correction-houses for young criminals.

Mr. Vladimir N. Avramoff, Directeur au Ministère de la Justice, has written a book recently in which he tries to popularise the idea of obligatory training of the vicious and criminal youth and the establishment of special juvenile courts in which liberty is given under supervision—an Anglo-American type, in which there should be centralised

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the supervision over the conduct and training of the minors.

The same gentleman has elaborated a project of a law for the obligatory training of vicious and criminal youths, but it is still in a state of consideration.

It is hoped that in the immediate future this project of a law will be enacted.

(Signed) VL. N. AVRAMOFF.