

## 8. ESTHONIA

Area in sq. miles . . . .	18,000
Population . . . . .	1,000,000
Capital . . . . .	Reval
Population of Capital . . . .	125,000

Esthonia has no probation law, only parole. Criminal responsibility of those under ten years is nil, ten to seventeen years partial.

There are no full-time paid probation officers. There are voluntary social workers of welfare societies. No professional association.

There are no juvenile courts; three psychiatric clinics.

There is a network of approved welfare societies receiving State support. (See Appendix.)

M. Mahoni, assistant to the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Esthonia, was kind enough to send the following information in English direct to me. It will be noted that it has reference to release from prison or reformatory on "parole" rather than to probation in our sense of the term. The information is dated 30th April 1925.

1. Yes, there is a Probation Law in Esthonia.
2. It is an enactment of the Russian Provisional Government relating to the conditional release before the term of imprisonment is expired and is dated the 1st August 1917; published in the Russian Collection of Laws 1917, Chapter 1326.
- 3 (a). In the Republic of Esthonia minority ceases on the twentieth year being reached; according to the Criminal Code now in force minors aged from seven-

teen to twenty years may be placed in common prisons to serve their terms under general conditions, and in consequence they are subject to the said law.

(b) This law is applicable to adults without regard to age. (Note.—Minors aged from ten to seventeen years are in this country placed in a reformatory for minors, from which they are released on probation.)

4. Offenders released conditionally are placed for their non-expired term, but for not less than six months, under the supervision of an approved society; in places where such societies do not exist, under the supervision of an administrative authority.

The network of approved societies (patronage societies) is at the moment under organisation. Five such societies have already been founded and six more are being founded; then the whole country will be covered.

5. The approved societies (patronage societies) effect their supervision through their active members, who are elected from amongst citizens of unquestionable reputation and who do not receive any remuneration. The Treasury grants these societies financial support and the State grants them the rights and privileges required.

6. According to the laws of this country, offenders generally are not examined in order to ascertain their mental, physical, etc., condition. Examination takes place in exceptional cases provided for by the law.

7. There are three mental and medical clinics in this country. One attached to the Tartu (Dorpat) University; one supported by a private society and subsidised by the State; one supported by a private physician.

8. Examinations as to physical, mental, etc., condition take place before the trial, but in exceptional cases also during the offender's term.

9. The laws now in force do not provide for any intelligence test.

10. The institutions to which offenders may be sent for observation are those mentioned sub No. 7 and commissions of experts appointed *ad hoc*.

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

12. Only the court authorities and the administration of the prison may refer offenders for mental, physical, etc., examinations.

From a one-time resident official in Esthonia I learn that there are no full-time paid probation officers in Esthonia, and that there is consequently no association of such officers.

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