

#### 15. IRISH FREE STATE

Area in sq. miles . . . .	26,592
Population . . . . .	3,161,000
Capital . . . . .	Dublin
Population of Capital . . . .	431,000

The Irish Free State has a probation law, viz. the English Probation of Offenders Act 1907 for minors and adults. No professional association. (See England, p. 54.)

The following information has been kindly furnished by the Department of Justice.

1. Yes, we have a law which permits the release on probation of offenders punishable in our courts in approved cases.
2. It is named the Probation of Offenders Act 1907.
3. There is no limitation imposed by the Act as regards the age of offenders who may be treated under its provisions.
4. In the Dublin Metropolitan area, offenders are usually placed on probation under paid probation officers. As regards other parts of the country, the number of such cases is not so numerous, and the conditions do not at present warrant the appointment of paid officers. Voluntary social workers, however, take a benevolent interest in the welfare of such cases and can be nominated as probation officers.

5. (a) Of the two paid officers in the Dublin area, one had been assisting in such work for a number of years prior to her appointment. Before appointment both candidates had to appear before a selection board, who satisfied themselves that the two chosen were the best qualified of the applicants to fulfil the duties.

(b) Their salaries are paid by the State.

(f) There are two unpaid probation officers in the Dublin Metropolitan area.

6. Offenders are not examined to ascertain their mental, physical, etc., condition, but it sometimes occurs that the physical condition of the offender is reported to the justice, and appropriate action taken, e.g. in cases of phthisis and venereal disease.

7. There are no clinics (mental and physical) which are used for the examination.

8. No examinations of offenders take place either before or after the trial.

9. No scheme of intelligence tests is used.

10. There are no institutions to which offenders may be sent for observation as to mental and physical condition, but if an alleged offender appears to be of unsound mind, the Metropolitan justices can have the person examined by the court doctor.

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

12. The probation officer does not refer offenders to the clinics for mental and physical examination, nor does the judge do this.

13. There is no association of probation officers.