THOUGH active assistance to persons released on parole is but slight, such assistance to persons who have been wholly discharged appears to be non-existent. The states generally have provision for transportation to the place of conviction or locality of residence; they provide a certain maximum of clothing and a small sum of money. An occasional statute gives them assistance in finding employment at the time of discharge. But what happens to the released convict between the time of his release and his next appearance in court is evidently not a matter of legislative concern. Private agencies may, and do, assist him to live within the law; but no legislation, except that of California, and possibly Massachusetts, imposes on state officials any particular care of released convicts in their efforts to go straight.

Alabama. Code (1940) tit. 45, sec. 54. Each prisoner on discharge to be furnished with suit and money to reach destination, not exceeding $10.

Tit. 45, sec. 55. In addition, if sentence did not exceed five years, to be given $10; if over five years, $10 and $2 for each year or major fraction thereof.

Arizona. 3 Code Ann. (1939) sec. 47-120. The parole clerk (apparently of the board of pardons and paroles) "shall aid in securing proper employment for all paroled prisoners, and also for those who have been discharged before the maximum time for which they were sentenced. . . ."

California. Penal Code (1941) sec. 2945. "The board shall have power and authority to provide for assisting discharged prisoners and to secure employment for the same and for that purpose they
may employ necessary officers and employees, may purchase tools, and
give any other assistance that, in its judgment, it deems proper for
the purpose of carrying out the objects and spirit of this act.”

Codes, Gen. Laws and Const. (1941 supp.) Welfare and Institutions Code, secs. 1710, 1760. The Youth Correction Authority is empowered, within the limits of its budget, to establish “agencies and facilities designed to aid persons who have been discharged by the Authority from its control in finding employment and in leading a law-abiding existence.”

Penal Code (1941) sec. 2946. The board of paroles may draw money for aiding discharged convicts in the amount of $1000 without submitting vouchers and the amount shall be replenished from appropriations made for the support of the board.

*Colorado.* 4 Stats. Ann. (1935) ch. 131, sec. 86. “When any convict is discharged from the penitentiary he shall be furnished the sum of ten dollars; also, when the said convict is in need, he shall be furnished with a new suit of common clothing, and all articles of personal property belonging to said convict that may have been turned over to the warden.”

*Connecticut.* Gen. Stats. (1930) sec. 1983. Any person in state prison deemed worthy by board of directors, on recommendation of warden, shall receive $.15 a day for services performed by him, as maximum.

To be kept in bank, etc., and given him on discharge, or warden may pay it to prisoner’s dependents.

*Florida.* Stats. (1941) sec. 954.32. “Each convict who serves a sentence at hard labor in the State penitentiary shall be furnished, when discharged, at the expense of the State, one good suit of clothes, a hat and one pair of shoes, and be furnished with five dollars to provide the necessities of life until he can procure work.”

*Idaho.* 1 Code Ann. (1932) sec. 20–421. When any convict is discharged from the penitentiary, the warden shall furnish him with a decent suit of clothing (if he is not already provided for) at the expense of the state, and shall pay each convict, from any funds belonging to the penitentiary, a sum not exceeding fifteen dollars and
shall deliver to said convict any property received from him which has not been disposed of according to law.

**Illinois.** Ann. Stats. (1935) ch. 108, sec. 21. (Jones Ann. Stats. 99.013.) Money and property brought to prison shall be returned to convict on discharge and department of public welfare shall "furnish each convict who may be discharged from the penitentiary, by pardon or otherwise, with a suitable suit of citizen's clothing, and shall also furnish such convict with transportation to the place of his conviction, or the equivalent thereof in money, and in addition thereto the sum of $10, for other necessary expenses of such convict."

**Indiana.** 4 Stats. Ann. (1933) sec. 13-254. "The warden of each prison shall appoint an agent, whose duty it shall be to aid and secure proper employment for all prisoners who have so conducted themselves as to be entitled to go out from such prison on parole, and also for those who have become entitled to an absolute discharge before the maximum time for which they were sentenced, and to keep the said warden informed of the conduct of said prisoners when out upon parole, and to make a report as to each prisoner in such matters on the first day of each month for the preceding month."

Sec. 13-257. "Hereafter, whenever any person shall be discharged from the Indiana Reformatory or the Indiana State Prison, the superintendent or warden thereof shall procure for him and deliver to the proper railroad conductor, a railroad ticket to any point to which such person may desire to go, not farther from said prison than the point from which he was sentenced, give him $10 in money, a durable suit of clothes, and, from the first day of November to the first day of April, an overcoat. The suit of clothes shall not cost to exceed $6 and the cost of the overcoat shall not exceed $5."

Sec. 13-413. "It shall be the duty of the general superintendent (of reformatory) to appoint an agent to aid, and secure, if possible, proper employment for all prisoners who have so conducted themselves as to be entitled to go out from said reformatory upon a parole, and also for those who have become entitled to an absolute discharge before the maximum time for which he was sentenced."

**Iowa.** Code (1939) sec. 3736. Duty of superintendent of women's reformatory "so far as practicable, to obtain for each inmate be-
before she is paroled or discharged a home and suitable employment if they are not otherwise provided."

Sec. 3737. Superintendent of women's reformatory may, "with the consent of the board of control, furnish a discharged or paroled inmate with proper clothing, and a receptacle therefor, and transportation to her place of employment, or home, or other place not more distant than the place of commitment, and a sum of money not exceeding $25."

Sec. 3779. "When a prisoner is discharged the warden shall furnish him, at the expense of the state, with a railroad ticket to the point in the state nearest his home or to any point of a like distance without the state, a suit of common clothing, and not more than $25, an account of which shall be kept by the warden."

Maine. Rev. Stats. (1930) ch. 152, sec. 53. "On the discharge of any convict who has conducted himself well during his imprisonment, the warden may give him from the funds of the prison a sum not exceeding ten dollars, and, if he requests it, a certificate of such good conduct; and shall take care that every convict, on his discharge is provided with decent clothing."

Massachusetts. 4 Ann. Laws (1933) ch. 127, sec. 158. Male parole agents who are employed to aid discharged male prisoners shall endeavor to secure employment for them, to provide them with needed assistance, and to perform such other duties relative to discharged prisoners as the commissioner of corrections requires.

Sec. 159. Women agents are to counsel and advise female prisoners who have been discharged, assist them in obtaining employment, and under the direction of the commissioner, render them pecuniary aid.

Sec. 160 ff. The commissioner may expend such sum as is annually appropriated for the assistance of prisoners released from the state prison or other institutions. Money may be spent in furnishing clothing, board, and tools. Discharged prisoners may be given up to $10.00 in money. Sec. 164 authorizes certain officials to provide prisoners released from county prisons with such an amount of money as in their opinion can be wisely used to encourage their reformation.

Michigan. 3 Comp. Laws (1929) sec. 17604. (Mich. Stats. Ann. § 28.1431.) When a convict is discharged, the warden shall
furnish him with clothing if he be not already provided therewith, not to exceed $25.00 in value, and such an amount of money between $10.00 and $25.00 as the warden believes proper. The warden shall also buy him a ticket to some designated point in the state. An attendant shall put the convict on the train and give the ticket to the conductor.

**Minnesota.** 2 Mason's Stats. (1927) sec. 10796. The warden shall furnish discharged prisoners with one good serviceable suit of clothing and underclothing, and if the release be between October 1 and March 31, a good serviceable overcoat, and to each convict, when released, $25.00 in money. Sec. 10838. Similar provisions concerning discharge from the state reformatory.

**Missouri.** 2 Rev. Stats. (1939) sec. 9047. The commission shall furnish to each convict upon discharge a suitable suit of clothes, including a hat and shoes of the value of $10.00, if the discharge is between the first day of April and the first day of October, or of the value of $15.00 if the discharge is at another time. The discharged prisoner shall also be given a sufficient sum of money to transport him to the county from which he was sentenced.

Sec. 9049. The sum of not less than $25.00 shall be allowed to accumulate for the use and benefit of each prisoner after release, unless 5 per cent of the earnings of said prisoner during the period of confinement amounts to less than $25.00.

**Montana.** Rev. Codes (1939) sec. 12458. When a convict is discharged from imprisonment, the warden must provide him with proper and sufficient clothing at a cost not exceeding $25.00, and in addition $5.00 in money.

**Nebraska.** Comp. Stats. (1929) sec. 29-2627. The warden shall provide discharged convicts with $10.00 in money and transportation to some designated place within the state.

Sec. 83-929. The warden shall also furnish discharged convicts with a decent suit of clothes and an overcoat if he is discharged between the first of November and the first of April, if he does not already have an overcoat, and shall give him $10.00 and a Bible if he can read.
New Hampshire. Rev. Laws (1942) ch. 464, sec. 17. The warden may furnish discharged prisoners with a suit of clothes, decent and suitable for the season in which he is discharged, and not more than $10.00 in money.

New Jersey. 1 Rev. Stats. (1937) sec. 30:4-114. The state board has power to furnish discharged convicts with not more than $25.00 in money.

New Mexico. Stats. Ann. (1941) sec. 42-1708. The superintendent shall provide released convicts with suitable clothing, $5.00 in money, and transportation to a designated place.

New York. 10B McKinney's Consol. Laws Ann. (1938) sec. 125. The warden shall give each discharged prisoner necessary clothing not to exceed during the winter months $40.00 in value, $20.00 in money, and a railroad ticket to a place at no greater distance than the place of conviction.

North Carolina. Code Ann. (1935) sec. 7757 (20). Discharged prisoners shall be given a small sum of money, transportation to a designated place, and sufficient clothing for neat and comfortable appearance. If a prisoner has demonstrated during his prison service that he is competent or proficient in any gainful trade, he shall also be given a certificate of competency signed by the proper authorities.

North Dakota. Comp. Laws (1913) sec. 11226. Discharged convict shall be provided with a decent suit of clothes, a sum of money not to exceed $5.00, and transportation to the place where he received sentence.

Oklahoma. Stats. (1941) tit. 57, sec. 139. "When any convict shall be discharged from prison, by pardon or otherwise, the Warden shall furnish him with clothing not to exceed $10 in value, if he be not already provided with clothing; not to exceed $10 to buy a railroad ticket for such prisoner to his home or place of destination, provided said prisoner be sentenced from any county except the county in which the penitentiary or reformatory is located; the Warden shall furnish such prisoner with $5 in money, provided, said prisoner has not as much as $5 to his credit."
Oregon. 8 Comp. Laws Ann. (1940) sec. 127-106. “Upon the discharge or parole of any convict from the penitentiary, it shall be the duty of the warden to see that such discharged or paroled convict is properly clothed, and in all cases where a convict is finally discharged it shall be the duty of the warden to pay such discharged convict the sum of $5. . . .”

Laws (1939) ch. 443, sec. 1. Authorizes the appropriation of $1500 annually for the following purpose:

Sec. 2. “The warden of the state penitentiary hereby is authorized to expend the said moneys in providing travel assistance for indigent discharged convicts at the time of release, when he shall deem it necessary and advisable. Such assistance may be furnished only in any such case to provide in whole or in part for the expense of travel of any such person from Salem to a destination within or without this state, and at a cost to the state, as shall be approved by the state parole board; but no transportation shall be furnished in a form redeemable by other than the state of Oregon, and no allowance for meals shall exceed the rate of $1.00 for each six hours necessarily required for making such travel.”


“Whenever a convict shall be discharged, by the expiration of the term for which he or she was condemned, or by pardon, he or she shall take off the prison uniform, and have the clothes which he or she brought to the prison restored to him or her, together with the other property, if any, that was taken from him or her on his or her commitment, that has not been otherwise disposed of.

“When a prisoner is to be discharged, it shall be the duty of the warden to obtain from him or her, as far as is practicable, his or her former history; what means of literary, moral or religious instruction, he or she enjoyed; what early temptations to crime, by wicked associations or otherwise, he or she was exposed to; his or her general habits, predominant passions and prevailing vices, and in what part of the country he or she purposes to fix his or her residence, all which shall be entered by the clerk in a book to be kept for that purpose, together with his or her name, age, and time of discharge.

“If the Board of Trustees and warden have been satisfied with the morality, industry, and order of his conduct, they shall give him a
certificate to that effect, and shall furnish the discharged convict with $4, to be paid by the state, whereby the temptation immediately to commit offenses against society, before employment can be obtained, may be obviated."

Sec. 376. The above act shall be modified so, "that hereafter the Board of Trustees and warden may, if they think it expedient, furnish to a discharged convict any sum not exceeding $10, out of the annual appropriation made by the state for that purpose."

**Rhode Island.** Gen. Laws (1938) ch. 55, sec. 29. "Whenever a convict shall be discharged he shall be decently clothed, and the chief of the division may in his discretion pay to him a sum of money not exceeding one-tenth of his actual earnings while confined in said prison: Provided, however, that in case of sickness of any convict by which he shall have been incapacitated for labor, he shall, in the discretion of said chief, be paid a sum not exceeding one-tenth of the average compensation of convict labor in said prison during the time of his sickness; provided, moreover, that the said chief may pay said amount at any time during the imprisonment of the convicts to the families or near relatives of such convicts, who may be in circumstances of indigence or want, instead of paying it to the convicts themselves at their discharge; and provided, further, that in no case shall the sum paid such convict at his discharge be less than $5."

**South Carolina.** 1 Code of Laws (1942) sec. 1978. Discharged convict furnished with suit of clothes if necessary and transportation from penitentiary to his home.

**South Dakota.** Code (1939) sec. 13.4726. "Every convict when discharged shall be provided with a suitable suit of clothes, a sum of money not to exceed $5, and transportation to the place where the convict received sentence. He may also be allowed employment in the Penitentiary under the rules established for the government of convicts, for such period of time and such rate of compensation as the Warden shall deem proper and equitable."

**Tennessee.** Michie's Code Ann. (1938) sec. 12145. Each convict, if he has none, shall be furnished with decent clothing and a maximum of $10 to reach his home. This is done at the discretion of the commissioner.
Sec. 1025. The Tennessee Association for the Relief of Ex-Convicts of the state of Tennessee is created. Purposes are to get in touch with discharged convicts, “give such encouragement as is possible toward helping to secure a proper attitude towards society,” help them get employment, give financial aid when necessary, and keep in touch with them for at least a year and “exert every effort possible toward making them law-abiding citizens.”

Texas. 17 Vernon’s Civil Stats. (1925) art. 6166zi. "When a prisoner is entitled to a discharge from prison, he or she shall be furnished with a written or printed discharge from the manager, with the seal affixed, signed by the manager, giving the prisoner’s name, date of sentence, from what County sentenced, amount of commutation received, if any, the trade he has learned, if any, his proficiency in the same, and such description as may be practicable. Such discharged person shall be furnished with a decent outfit of citizen’s clothing of good quality and fit, and two suits of underwear; and when a person and/or convict actually serves over one year, he shall receive $50 in money in addition to any money held to his or her credit; provided that if a person and/or convict does not actually serve one year flat time, he shall not receive $50; but in lieu thereof a person serving less than one year actual time shall receive $25 in money in addition to any money held to his or her credit and a decent suit of citizen’s clothing and two suits of underwear, provided that if the actual time served exceeds ten years, the sum of money shall be $75, and if the actual time served exceeds twenty years, the sum of money shall be $100. As far as may be practicable the Prison Board may authorize creation of a Bureau for the purpose of placing discharged prisoners in connection with employment, provided such will not be an extra expense to the prison system.”

Utah. 5 Code Ann. (1943) sec. 85-9-58. “When a convict shall be discharged from prison by pardon or otherwise, the warden shall furnish him with clothing, if he is not already provided for, not exceeding $10 in value, and such sum of money not exceeding $10 as the warden may deem necessary and proper, provided the prisoner has less than $10 of his earnings to his credit. The board may in its discretion furnish such convict with a further sum of money, not exceed-
ing $15, whenever in its opinion the necessities of the convict are such as to require the same. Instead of paying to a discharged convict the sum of money as above allowed, the warden may in his discretion expend the money and allowance, or such portion thereof as may be necessary, in paying the fare of the convict to his home or place of destination."

Vermont. Pub. Laws (1933) sec. 5520. "The warden of the state prison and the matron of the women’s reformatory, in their discretion, and at the expense of the state, may furnish persons discharged from their institutions with railroad tickets to their homes. Such tickets shall be delivered to the conductor of the train, who, at the end of his route, shall deliver the unused portion thereof, if any, to the discharged person."

Sec. 8816. Each prisoner for good behavior and if "he is poor and destitute, shall be entitled to receive one dollar for each such month (of good behavior) when finally discharged . . . but such payment shall not exceed one hundred dollars."

Virginia. Code Ann. (1942) sec. 5021. Prisoners may get $10 upon discharge, also proper certificates of transportation, and a coarse suit of clothes if necessary.

Washington. 10 Remington’s Rev. Stats. Ann. (1932) sec. 10222. Each convict leaving the penitentiary shall be given the money he brought with him, any sum earned or presented to him, and in case he has insufficient funds he shall be given $5, a suit of clothes costing not more than $10.00 and transportation by the cheapest route to the place sentenced, such transportation to be void if not used in twenty-four hours, and he shall be entitled to immunity from having his hair cut or having been shaved for three months prior to his release.

Wisconsin. Stats. (1941) sec. 53.15. "Every convict, when discharged, shall be provided with a decent suit of clothes and a sum of money, not to exceed $5, in addition to transportation, or the means to procure the same, from Waupun to any place within this state, which the warden may, at his discretion and as necessity may seem to require, furnish; and may also be allowed employment in the prison, under the rules established for the government of convicts,
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for such period of time and at such rate of compensation as the warden, under the direction of the state board, shall deem proper and equitable.”

*Wyoming.* Rev. Stats. (1931) sec. 108–820. “. . . state board of charities and reform shall provide a prisoner upon his or her final discharge, as a gratuity, $15 in cash, a railroad ticket to any point within a radius of 750 miles from the place of his or her confinement, either within or without the state, such ticket to be delivered only to the conductor of the train upon which the released prisoner is to travel, and suitable clothing when necessary; provided, however, that the total value of gratuities allowed shall not exceed the sum of $50 unless by the order of the state board of charities and reform. . . .”

*Federal.* 18 U.S.C.A. secs. 746, 819, 840. Discharged prisoners are to be furnished transportation to their place of residence, or place of conviction, or to some other place within the United States approved by the Attorney General, and, if their term of imprisonment has been six months or more, they are to be given suitable clothing and not more than $20.00 in money.