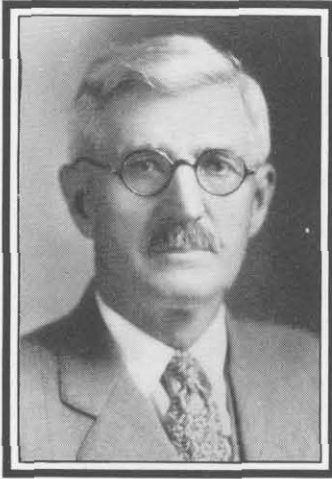


# Department of Probation

Sixth Judicial Circuit



JAMES BUTLER  
Probation Officer

THE Probation Department for adults of Oakland County has proven a great benefit to many, as may be seen by a perusal of the table included in this report.

We quote the following from the law relative to the placing of people on probation who have been arrested for crime:

"In all prosecutions for crimes or misdemeanors, except murder and treason, where the defendant has been found guilty, upon verdict or plea, and where the Court has power to sentence such defendant to fine or imprisonment, and where it appears to the satisfaction of the court that the defendant is not likely again to engage in an offensive or criminal course of conduct, and that the public good does not require that the defendant shall suffer the penalty imposed by law, said Court shall have the power to place the defendant on probation under the charge and supervision of a probation officer."

Table for the year ending June 30, 1928:

Number on probation at the beginning of the year . . . . .	124
Number placed on probation during the year . . . . .	57
Total for year . . . . .	181
Number discharged . . . . .	32
Number rearrested and committed for violation of probation . . . . .	4
Number rearrested and committed for new offenses . . . . .	4
Number absconded (retaken two) . . . . .	10
	50
Number of probationers at end of year . . . . .	131
Average length of probation . . . . .	.2 1-3 Years
Amount paid for restitution . . . . .	\$692.00
Amount paid for fines . . . . .	400.00
Amount paid for costs . . . . .	100.00
Total earnings of probationers for year . . . . .	\$130,869.00

By a careful study of the above table the real value of probation may be readily discerned. Out of a grand total of 181 probationers only eight have been sentenced to prison, while eight others have absconded and are perhaps in other trouble. Without this provision of law, all these persons would have received prison sentences or perhaps fines, when they might have been applicable and collectable.

This is not only a great saving to the State financially, but a great majority of them become useful citizens and a real worth to society. Through probation many homes are kept together, and not only is the probationer benefited, but many times other members of the family helped socially and made better citizens.

Probation is a constructive aid in building character and in preventing crime.  
How much better to make a real citizen than to make a criminal.

JAMES S. BUTLER,  
Chief Probation Officer.