

## STATISTICS OF PENAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

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There are three classes of Penal Institutions in Canada:—1. Penitentiaries. 2. Reformatories. 3. Common Gaols.

We shall take these classes in the order above given.

### PENITENTIARIES.

There are at present in the Dominion of Canada three Penal Institutions, known as Penitentiaries namely, at Kingston (Ontario), Halifax (Nova Scotia), and St. John (New Brunswick.)

Although known by the same name, the latter two Institutions are essentially different from the first named.

The Penitentiary of Kingston receives those convicts only whose sentence of imprisonment is for two years or upwards. The so-called Penitentiaries at Halifax and St. John, on the contrary, receive all classes of prisoners, including even vagrants. Any comparison, therefore, made between the two latter institutions and that at Kingston could only mislead. We therefore omit altogether here the statistics of the Penitentiaries at Halifax and St. John.

### PROVINCIAL PENITENTIARY, KINGSTON, ONTARIO.

This Institution was established in the year 1835.

From that date to the present time, it has served as a place of confinement for all convicts, whose sentence of imprisonment is not less than two years, from both the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, now known as the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

The British North America Act provides (see section 141), that until the Parliament of Canada otherwise provides, this Institution shall continue to be the Penitentiary of Ontario and Quebec.

The subjoined tables give the principal statistical facts relative to the Institution, from the organization of the late Board of Inspectors to the close of 1867:—

TABLE shewing the Movement of Convicts in the Provincial Penitentiary, from the 1st January, 1859, to the 1st January, 1868.

Year.	Remaining at 1st January.		Received during the year.		Total.	Discharged during the year		Deaths.		Re-main'g at 31st Dec.	*No. of Re-com-mittals.
	Males.	Fema's	Males.	Fema's		Males.	Fema's	Males.	Fema's		
1859.....	716	62	234	22	1,014	195	14	22	2	801	33
1860.....	733	63	204	31	1,039	203	27	13	2	784	29
1861.....	711	73	205	23	1,012	216	19	13	0	764	30
1862.....	686	78	227	16	1,007	186	29	23	4	765	27
1863.....	704	61	275	30	1,070	188	25	32	2	823	31
1864.....	759	64	147	23	993	203	19	40	2	729	21
1865.....	667	62	235	21	1,005	193	28	10	0	774	28
1866.....	718	56	246	24	1,044	192	18	18	1	815	18
1867.....	754	61	277	21	1,113	195	15	12	4	887	29

In commenting on this table, which is taken from the report of the Board of Inspectors for the year 1867, the inspectors observe:—

"It will be seen that the number of convicts has fluctuated very considerably during the nine years embraced in the table: and it is not perhaps easy to deduce any general conclusion from it as to the progress or diminution of serious crime in the country during that period. The year 1864 is chargeable with the lowest number of admissions of male convicts, 147; nearly 50 per cent. less than that of the preceding year, and about 4 per cent. less than that of the succeeding year. This extraordinary and exceptional diminution in the number of admissions to the Penitentiary, was no doubt owing mainly to the fact that a large proportion of those who in the ordinary course of events would have found their way into the Penitentiary that year, had in one way or another gone to swell the ranks of the armies then fighting in the neighboring States. Again, the comparatively large number of admissions of male convicts in the last three years, indicates, doubtless, the return to this country of a remnant of those who left it in 1863 and 1864.

"In addition to these Canada has, no doubt, received in the last three years her share of the mass of ruffians from the neighboring Republic, whom the cessation of hostilities there threw upon the country utterly without occupation, and who, from their former habits and wild military life, were only too ready to enter upon a career of crime. The same cause has been found very largely to swell the number of criminals in the United States for the last two or three years.

"The admissions during the past year are, it will be observed, greater than that of any former year, but it must be recollected that during that year no less than 25 prisoners were sent to the Penitentiary as implicated in the Fenian raids made upon this country from the States. These prisoners should not be placed in the category of ordinary criminals, and may fairly be excluded

\* This gives the number of prisoners received during the year who have undergone previous imprisonment in the Penitentiary. Some of them have been imprisoned three, four or five times.