

attendance, &c., on a more liberal scale than is generally found elsewhere. More economical methods of working are recommended and an extensive employment of steam colliers.

Dr. Harrington, the mineralogist of the Survey, gives a report upon samples of

brick clay from Fort Garry, submitted to him. From the experiments made by him, it appears that there is no defect in the clays, but that the want of success in the manufacture had arisen from insufficient burning and want of proper admixture of the clays and sand.

## *Dominion Penitentiaries.*

The Directors of Penitentiaries report crime on a decrease in the Dominion. The diminution is not large, but is more substantial, more general and more equally distributed than in former years. The prisons under their direction are the Kingston Penitentiary, Rockwood Lunatic Asylum, Kingston, St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary, St. John do, and Halifax do. The Kingston Penitentiary is situated on the north shore of the Bay of Kingston, commanding a fine view of Lake Ontario, and in as salubrious a situation as could have been selected. The grounds include a farm of 100 acres, 52 of which are under cultivation and yield a plentiful supply of vegetables for the use of the prison. Much of the land has hitherto been used as a quarry for stone cutting, but this, for the present, being suspended, the labour will be utilized in reclaiming the land and making it profitable to the institution. A substantial stone house, about half a mile from the main entrance, is occupied by the farmer gardener, and adjacent is a capacious stone barn. Some 60 or 70 hogs are fed on the refuse, furnishing pork for the use of the prison. The buildings are of limestone, with a wall of the same 25 feet high around them; 11 acres are thus enclosed. The prison will hold nearly 900 convicts besides the accommodation for the officers, chapel, hospital, workshops, &c. &c. Outside of the south wall, is an excellent wharf, where vessels can take in and discharge cargoes, employing convict labour. The water supply is abundant, and bathing regulations are carried out regularly and systematically. Drainage and ventilation are good. The Directors recommend on the score of cleanliness and economy the heating the building by steam, and the substitution of gas for coal oil in lighting it. On the 31st Dec., 1872, there were 549 convicts in the prison. On the 31st Dec., 1873 there were only 384, of which 15 were females. A part of this reduction was owing to the removal of 119 convicts from Quebec to St. Vincent de Paul. During the year 143 were received into the building, 243 discharged, 25 pardoned, 4 transferred to Asylum, and 8 died. The Directors recommend a short period of solitary confinement for every convict on entering the prison before being set at work. The general conduct of the prisoners has been very good. Very few serious infractions of rule took place. The Directors are happy to record the opinion of Miss Carpenter, whose name is identified

with the reform of Prison discipline, that in the whole course of her experience, in the old world and new, she had never seen so large a number of convicts who exhibited so few traces of depravity in their bearing. These satisfactory results are mainly due to the religious and moral instruction received; the schools and libraries; to the encouragements held out for well doing; to the good example and vigilance of the officers and the great kindness and firmness of the Warden. Two religious services are held on Sunday, by the Church of England and R. C. Chaplains. On Wednesday afternoon also the Chaplains have religious exercises, and besides visit the prisoners in their cells. Clergymen of other denominations can at all times visit the convicts who may wish for them by permission of the Warden. The school is well conducted by six of the keepers and guards, and a great many men have learned to read and write and the elementary rules of arithmetic. The library is properly estimated and gladly availed of. The staff of officers is composed of reliable, well tried, experienced men, who discharge their duty with zeal, devotedness and fidelity. The punishments are chiefly low diet, the dark cell, and very rarely solitary confinement in the dungeon. Flogging was only resorted to twice during the year. The food is unexceptionable in quality and quantity. The sanitary condition is all that could be desired. The receipts for convict labour during the year were \$18,954 and the value of other labour, at the lowest estimate, \$36,163. The cash earning of each convict performing contract labour was \$135.81 and the average value of the work of the remaining prisoners \$152.30 per head. Among the works for the year were: the completion of the Warden's house, the pointing of the boundary wall inside and out, the extension of the wharf, a new kitchen, and an engine room.

The expenditure of 1873 amounted to \$116,352.90. The expense of each convict, (including officers' salaries, gratuities to prisoners, &c.) is \$175.20 a year. 26 males and 1 female were pardoned. A decrease of nearly one half has taken place in the number of female convicts. The earnings of the female convicts, besides the necessary work of the prison, amounted to \$2,364 averaging \$103 per head. The order and cleanliness of the prison and personal neatness and good behaviour of the female prisoners excite the admiration of all visitors.