

Dominion Penitentiaries.

The largest and most important of these institutions is the Kingston Penitentiary. In this, at the close of the year 1874, were confined 408 persons, 35 males and 25 females, being an increase of 24 over the number at the commencement of the year. The increase of commitments during the year was, however, only 10 over those of the preceding year, a very small increase in proportion to the growth of the population of the Province of Ontario to which most of the convicts belong. The conduct of the prisoners, with few exceptions, was satisfactory. Thirty-three of the convicts have the sentences, three of these being female. The remainder are under sentences varying from two years to 17, there being 93 of the former and one of the latter. The convicts work 10 hours a day in summer, and the hours of daylight in winter. A large number are employed by contractor in different industries, and the remainder on the work of the Penitentiary itself, the greater part of it having been built year by year by the convicts. The Warden recommends the introduction of a grist mill and woollen factory among the industries of the prison, making it, as far as possible, self-supporting. The system of allowing convicts to earn a remission of sentence by good conduct and industry, is productive of the best results. After the first six months, during which the convict is learning some trade, he should be able to do a fair day's work, and the Warden recommends that all done beyond this should go towards remission of sentence. Some of them now earn five days in a month, and the incentive to form habits of industry is very great. Money compensations for extra earnings are not so useful, there being always the danger of the convict not working after his release till his earnings are exhausted.

The sanitary condition is good and the health of the convicts excellent, only four deaths occurring in the year, and the hospital admissions were fewer than in the year preceding. The chaplains report favorably of the attendance on the religious services, and the use made of the library. The Penitentiary farm has furnished an ample supply of vegetables for the prison. The female department is admirably conducted. "Good order, perfect cleanliness and unceasing industry" are its characteristics.

The earnings of the convicts during the year amounted to \$53,826.82, the maintenance expenditure to \$7,189.85, and the total expenditure to \$101,072.20.

At the Rockwood Lunatic Asylum, connected with the Penitentiary, there were at the close of the year 1874 380 patients. Seventeen died during the year, 43 were discharged as cured and one eloped. Forty-six patients were admitted during the year, one only of these from the Penitentiary. A number of additions to the building are recommended by the Medical Superintendent. The first is the purchase of more land to furnish occupation for the patients, every portion of the inclosure being now in use. During the summer of 1874, an acre

and a half was added to the garden by quarrying out rocks and carting soil, from which a good crop of potatoes was obtained. The grounds are in beautiful order, and have been made and kept entirely by the labor of the patients. The situation is extremely healthy, and the supply of perfectly pure water unlimited but more extensive accommodation is much needed both in the house and land. The total expenditure for the year was \$52,735.57. More than 25,000 days work was done by the patients during the year, and the value of the farm and garden produce was nearly \$2,000.

At the Penitentiary of St. Vincent de Paul there were, on the night of the 31st December, 1874, 179 prisoners. Thirty-nine were discharged during the year, and six pardoned. 29,872 days work were done by the prisoners. The warden reports a great improvement in the behaviour of the prisoners. Although the number was considerably greater than the preceding year, the punishments were much fewer. No death occurred among the prisoners, and only one case of contagious disease. The prisoners were all either employed on the works of the institution, which are altogether incomplete and insufficient. The total value of the work performed by the men was, including materials, \$24,935.25. Eighty-four prisoners attend the school; 44 of these can read and write 40 more are learning to read, and 32 are learning arithmetic. The conduct at school is generally good. The Chaplain reports favorably, and the library is much used by all who can read. The value of real estate of this penitentiary is estimated at \$37,025.60, and of the stock on hand, &c., at the close of 1874, at \$231,795. The expenditure for the year was \$69,151.52.

At the St. John, N. B., Penitentiary, on the 31st December, 1874, there were 369 convicts and common prisoners. There were only two deaths during the year, but the surgeon reports the health of most transient prisoners as bad. Among all there is a tendency to pulmonary disease, and a hospital is urgently needed. The Chaplain reports favorably of the conduct of the convicts. Twenty-one pupils attend the school, evincing a great desire to learn. The number of days' work performed was 2,358. \$17,722.61 was expended in purchase of material for manufactures, and the sale amounted to \$23,151.47. The total expenditure is not given. The value of land, buildings &c., is estimated at about \$105,000.

At Halifax there were 42 convicts. No deaths during the year, and no epidemic disease. The health of the prisoners was generally good. The conduct of the prisoners was also good. 719 days remission was earned by them during the year; 9,734 days work was done. The earnings in the Broom and Shoe Departments were \$10,799, and the value of unpaid labor on farm, &c., 3,661.38. The expenditure was \$24,866. The value of the property is estimated at nearly \$20,000. A change in the management of the Penitentiaries was made at the last session of Parliament, appointing an Inspector of Penitentiaries in the place of the Board of Directors.