

Dominion Penitentiaries.

The report of the Penitentiary Directors for 1872 shows a decided improvement in the criminal statistics of the Dominion. In the Kingston Penitentiary the number of convicts at the close of the year was 549, showing a decrease as compared with the preceding year of 79, and of these only 28 were females. In the St. John Penitentiary there were at the close of the year 83 males and one female, and in the Halifax 36 males and one female. The Kingston Penitentiary is in every way efficiently managed, and the conduct of the convicts very satisfactory. The offences against discipline were slight and the punishments neither numerous nor severe. Flogging was only resorted to in two instances. The adoption of the system of rewards and gratuities has had most beneficial results. Prisoners employed on contract labour are allowed to receive remuneration for all work performed over their daily allotted task. This money, at the option of the convict, is remitted to his friends or placed in the Savings' Bank until the expiration of his sentence, making a small capital for him to begin life anew. Even life prisoners are allowed the same privilege, enabling them to assist their families. Convicts who are not employed on contract labour, and not able to realize this benefit, receive from the Warden on their discharge, besides their travelling expenses, a gratuity of ten or twenty dollars according to desert. Lights outside the windows of the cells have been latterly allowed until bed-time, and many have taken advantage of this to improve themselves in the elementary branches of education taught in the school. A library of 1,400 volumes is provided and much prized by the prisoners. Both the Protestant and Catholic Chaplains report in favorable terms of the condition of the prisoners. The health of the prisoners was generally good, the number of deaths hav-

ing been 7. The value of the labour performed by the convicts during the year is estimated at \$74,717.59. A great deal of this was upon the works of the Penitentiary itself. The Rockwood Lunatic Asylum was filled during the year to its utmost capacity, and was admirably managed by Dr. Dickson. Negotiations are in progress for the transfer of this Asylum to the Province of Ontario. A distinct Penitentiary for Quebec has been established since the close of the Report, at St. Vincent de Paul, about 10 miles from Montreal, and a number of the convicts have been removed from Kingston to the establishment, and 11 men from the Kingston staff have been sent with them. There is a farm of 65 acres belonging to this Penitentiary, on which bricks can be made, profitably employing the convicts, and the Directors have recommended the purchase of a limestone quarry of large extent, near the Penitentiary.

Four deaths occurred in the St. John Penitentiary: but upon the whole, the health of the convicts was good, and the conduct and discipline satisfactory. Many additions and improvements are imperatively needed in this Penitentiary, and the practice of committing vagrants and prisoners under short sentences, is urgently recommended to be discontinued. The Halifax Penitentiary is stated to be in high a state of efficiency. Some additions to the buildings are necessary, and the limits of the yard require enlargement.

The total expenditure of the Kingston Penitentiary for the year 1872, was:—

	\$125,361 26
Of Rockwood Asylum.....	41,235 17
Of Halifax Penitentiary.....	17,456 18
Of St. John do	26,505 73
Total Penitentiary Expendit..	\$210,558 34

Mining in the Dominion.

QUEBEC AND ONTARIO.

GOLD.

Operations in the Chaudiere gold mining division have been entirely suspended during the past twelve months, but a company has been formed bearing the title of the "Gilbert and Chaudiere Gold Fields and Mining Company of Canada" (limited), which has acquired from the De Lery Company the right of mining over 15,000 acres in the seignory of Rigaud—Vaudreuil. Work is to commence during the present autumn upon an extensive scale, with new machinery and plant imported from England. The capital of the Company is £125,000 stg. In the Marmora Gold Mines, as in the

Chaudiere, the past year has been spent rather in the introduction of new machinery, and in preparing for new processes of working than in the production of gold. Owners have sufficient confidence in the value of their mines to go to great expense in erecting mills and revolving furnaces, with engines of increased power.

The following mines are, or have recently been at work: The Cook, Gillen, Severn, Gatling, Hawk Eye, Neil, and the Powell Mine.

In the Cook Mine a shaft six feet by ten was sunk, and had reached, up to the winter of 1872, a depth of seventy feet, and levels ninety feet in extent had been driven on