

ciation, and many are helped to a better life.

The Central Prison, take it all in all, is a model institution, and reflects the greatest credit upon James Massie, the efficient Warden.

THE REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN.

also called the "Mercer" Reformatory, is situated about half a mile west of the Central Prison, between King street and the Industrial Fair grounds. Women are sent to this reformatory for periods varying from three months to any period less than two years. The average number imprisoned here is less than 100. The principal industry at the "Mercer" is laundry work. There is a Sunday-school Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, and a preaching service Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock, as well as on every Thursday evening. There is a Bible-woman in connection with the Prisoners' Aid Association, who visits the women at the Reformatory steadily, and who receives into the "Shelter" any of those discharged from the Reformatory who may be disposed to avail themselves of its hospitality.

The Prison Reform Commissioners recommend the removal of the young girls from the adjoining Refuge, and utilizing the space gained to effect a better system of classification than seems now practicable.

The lady-superintendent complains that in most cases the women are sent to the Reformatory for too short a term to be of much benefit, and in many cases a second sentence is shorter than the first, instead of being longer, as it should be.

We might mention in this connection that it has been suggested that when the girls in the Refuge are removed, possibly an arrangement might be made with the Dominion Government whereby women sentenced for longer periods than two years might be sent to the Ontario Reformatory instead of to the Penitentiary at Kingston, as at present.

THE REFUGE FOR GIRLS

is (unfortunately) situated on the same grounds as, and the building is

connected with, that of the Reformatory for women. The average number of girls in the Refuge is about fifty. The ages range from five up to sixteen. The girls spend about four hours daily at their lessons, and about four hours at work. The sentences vary from six months to six years. It is claimed that a large percentage of these girls do well after leaving the Refuge. In cases, however, where they return to idle or dissolute relations, the girls do badly. The great drawback to the successful working of this institution is the close proximity to the Women's Reformatory. The Commissioners recommend that the Refuge be entirely separated from the Reformatory, and be established on farm land away from city influences, and that the girls be taught farm and dairy work, and all kinds of housework as well.

THE REFORMATORY FOR BOYS

is situated at Penetanguishene. The building is an old barracks built about the beginning of the century, but unused for many years. The location is bad, and the building is not at all adapted to the wants of such an institution. The Prison Reform Commissioners recommend that a Reformatory for boys be established on good farm land, not too far from the centres of population; that the boys be taught farming (which is now impossible), and that the Cottage system be introduced, both with a view to classification and also for the purpose of bringing to bear the reforming influence of home life upon these wayward boys.

There is an average of over 200 boys in this Reformatory. The evidence taken by the Commissioners with regard to the working of this institution certainly does not show the Reformatory in a good light. There are no statistics regarding the work accomplished by the Reformatory, as, sad to say, no trace is kept of those discharged from the institution, and nothing is done to give them a helping hand on leaving it. This is a fearful wrong, and one that should be righted forthwith.