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prisoners take advantage of it, sooner or later. There is every reason to apprehend that the present over-crowded state of the prison will lead to unpleasant consequences. The cells, as noted in former reports, are quite insecure, owing to the defective character of the locks and of the brick jambs. The Agent of the Public Works Department has been instructed to make them as secure as possible. Though iron casings for the doors were promised by the Public Works Department several months before, the Agent had received no instructions about them, when I visited the prison, last June. The sewers still remain defective and emit noxious exhalations, whenever a north wind prevails. I spoke to the Agent of the Public Works Department on the subject, who told me he had no instructions in reference to the matter. He is of opinion no permanent improvement can be made until a sewer be constructed on the east side of the building.

The Warden recommends that the mess system be again re-established among the officers, to be maintained partly by themselves and partly by the Government. In the unprotected state of the Penitentiary, the necessity of having the officers on hand, at all times, when the prisoners are not locked up, is obvious.

He deplores the frequent changes in the staff as injurious to discipline, eleven having been taken on among the minor officers during the year. Better advantages offer, in Manitoba, for young men qualified for the position of Guards, than the Penitentiary service can hold out. Therefore, the Warden thinks that better inducements must be held out in order to provide duly qualified officers.

The Deputy Minister of Justice, who accompanied me on my last visit of inspection to this Penitentiary, wrote to the Department of Public Works respecting the many repairs, improvements and other necessaries which were shown by the Warden to be required. Several of these matters have met with attention, while others, for some unexplained reason, remain in *statu quo*.

The details of a plot by certain convicts to escape, on the 8th December last, are given in the Warden's report. Viewing all the circumstances of the case, I cannot well see how the Warden could have taken any other course than the one he followed. I consider his action in the premises fully justified by reason of the doubt and difficulty in which he was placed through the character of the information he received in regard to the conspiracy. He had no other alternative than await events, and see whether the plot were a reality or a myth. The Warden, and the officers referred to in his report, acted with laudable courage and good judgment under trying and difficult surroundings, and deserve commendation.

A great deal of difficulty is still experienced in connection with the water supply, which is constantly running short. It is to be hoped the Public Works Department will take the most effectual means to remedy so great a defect.