

returns, which they have furnished, render any extended remarks upon the various institutions unnecessary on my part.

KINGSTON PENITENTIARY.

This institution, by far the most extensive and important in the Dominion, has been managed in 1876, in a manner that calls for the same approval which its administration during the preceding year commanded.

The great increase in the number of convicts, the want of proper classification, already mentioned, and the constant embarrassment in finding employment for so many, all the year round, rendered it a very troublesome task to maintain discipline and enforce the observance of the rules. Despite these drawbacks, the institution has been most successfully carried on last year. The Warden's tact and cleverness displayed in keeping so large a body of men at work, when there was no contract of a fixed or continuous nature for convict labour, is worthy of note. It is true, the work in all cases has not been remunerative or necessary, yet, it served to preserve order, to promote health, and for the most part, to enhance materially the value of the property of the institution. As the Warden appropriately observes in his report, the improvements made are such as a private gentleman of means would undertake in connection with his own property.

The number in the Penitentiary on 31st December, 1875, was 593; or 572 males and 21 females. On the same date, 1876, 703; of whom 685 were males, and 18 females; giving an increase of 110.

The monthly average for the last five years, is as follows:—

1872.....	573
1873.....	429 $\frac{1}{2}$
1874.....	390 $\frac{3}{4}$
1875.....	514 $\frac{7}{8}$
1876.....	625 $\frac{1}{2}$

Three escapes occurred during the year, one of the fugitives being recaptured and returned to the Penitentiary. In connection with one of these escapes, the officer in charge of the prisoner was not culpable; in both the other cases there was palpable neglect. One of the guards implicated resigned in anticipation of certain dismissal; the other was dismissed.

In other respects the conduct of the staff has been satisfactory.

The report of the Warden explains how the prisoners have been employed.

Every effort was made to obtain contracts for convict labour. For this end tenders were advertised for in prominent newspapers in Canada and the United States, but to no purpose. The same difficulty in farming out prison labour has been experienced in many of the American institutions.

The Departments of Public Works and of Militia have, through your untiring exertions, been induced to have a great deal of work executed in this Penitentiary. It will be of immense advantage if such orders be continued and largely increased.

In addition to Mr. Creighton's report, that of Mr. Adams, Chief Trade Instructor and Clerk of Works, supplies very minute details of the different improvements and industrial pursuits which were carried out during 1876.

The revenue, in 1875, exclusive of the indebtedness of the Canada Lock Company, was \$12,109.72. For the year just ended, it amounted to \$23,332.09—a large item considering the dearth of remunerative employment.

The expenditure for all purposes, in 1876, was \$106,599, compared with \$96,423 in 1875. The increase in the outlay last year is obviously attributable to the large addition to the prison population over 1875.