

## DORCHESTER PENITENTIARY.

## REPORT OF THE WARDEN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1890.

DORCHESTER PENITENTIARY, 1st July, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report, with the necessary returns, of the Dorchester Penitentiary, for the year ended 30th June, 1890.

On the 30th of June, 1889, there remained 162 convicts; received since, 72; total 234. Discharged during the year, 57 males, and transferred to Kingston Penitentiary, one male and two females, total 60, which left remaining at midnight on 30th June, 1890, 174 prisoners, an increase of 12 over the previous year. The daily average for the year was 173, an increase of  $23\frac{1}{2}$  over last year.

You will observe from a return showing the *per capita* cost of convicts in the Dorchester Penitentiary for the past year that it is \$224.70, being \$21.98 less than the previous year.

Our expenditure for the year was \$44,115.85, leaving an unexpended balance of \$1,992.65. The balance sheet shows an increase in stock of \$1,296.47.

The revenue remitted the Receiver-General the past year was \$4,640.64, being \$859.05 less than for the previous year. This decrease does not mean a corresponding decrease in the earnings, as the amount remitted this year all belonged properly to the same period, whereas during the fiscal year of 1888-89 a number of outstanding debts belonging to the previous year were collected and remitted.

Our potato crop was a complete failure last year. I had to purchase all we used. The other crops were up to the average.

We cut and hauled last year 3,800 spruce logs, 26 feet long and averaging 7 inches at the top end. These will be sufficient to re-build two and one-half sides of the stockade, nearly enough to finish it. We hauled the most of these logs a distance of six miles with our own teams.

On examination of the small water reservoir last autumn it was found that the deck, deck-beams and the tops of all the posts were rotten, and liable to collapse at any time. There had been a foot of earth put all over the deck when built, to make it frost proof, which caused all the wood work to decay. I had all the earth thrown out and the whole top of the reservoir stripped, putting in new posts, beams and a double deck, leaving an air space of about 4 inches between the decks. I had the building repaired, boarded and shingled outside and sheathed inside, shutters made for the windows and a porch and storm door built over the main entrance, making it frost proof without the foot of earth. The large reservoir is in the same rotten condition as the smaller one was before being repaired, and must be treated in the same way or it will collapse. There was a great want of good judgment and practical knowledge in building these reservoirs; earth should never have been used as a covering on the decks. Had they been built in the first place as I had this one done, there would not have been any necessity for putting on a covering of earth, and the reservoirs would be in a good state of preservation to-day. Straw could have been used instead of earth during the winter season, and thrown out in early spring.

I purchased the material and had made here 30 iron bedsteads for the cells, and 12 for the hospital.

I furnished all the prisoners with a straw mattress. Heretofore they were not supposed to have them. With only the canvas bottoms to sleep on, no matter how many blankets they would have for a covering they would always feel the cold from underneath.

The supplying of the prisoners with summer uniforms was an extra cost of about \$1,000, which was paid for out of the past year's appropriation.