

Keeper informing me that it is too small for the purpose. Of the correctness of this conclusion I am doubtful. I might add that no attempt has been made to seat the convicts in this room, but so soon as it becomes sufficiently dry I think I may venture to assure you that this will be remedied.

Here I do not think that it would be out of place to suggest the great advisability of having copies of the plans and specifications deposited in the iron safe of the Penitentiary for reference when required.

With the exception of three stoves, sent by the Resident Engineer from Victoria, no heating apparatus of any kind has been supplied. I would recommend that steam pipes should, if possible, be laid throughout the building. In my opinion, it is the most cleanly, the most healthy, and the least dangerous method as far as fire is concerned, of supplying heat. The hose which was lacking at the time of your visit in 1878, has now been supplied in sufficient quantity for each storey by the Resident Engineer.

A large number of the windows were utterly unprovided by bars to offer any obstruction to the escape of convicts, while those in the corridors were, in many instances, insecure from the fact of the bars not being inserted a sufficient depth in the woodwork. I found it necessary to call the Resident Engineer's attention to their insecure state, and he took immediate steps to remedy the defect. The Public Works Department supplied the iron, and also a man, who made the gratings and partly fitted some of the windows; the remainder of the work was done by convict labor. Some of the brickwork in the unfinished portion of the upper storey or attic appears to have been carelessly put together, the bricks lying in all shapes and at all angles one upon the other. This fault has been removed, as far as possible, by convict labor.

The locks of the cells—sent out, I believe, from Eastern Canada—are of an unsuitable pattern. As the iron doors of the cells do not fit accurately, the bolts are more or less exposed, affording every facility for being tampered with. All the cells, moreover, are opened by one key, instead of by separate keys for each range. This, however, is a matter of minor importance. The baths are a great deal too small for their purposes.

The Catholic Chapel, at the date of my first visit, was undergoing the alterations approved of by you, and, as you may observe by the Roman Catholic Chaplain's report, is now in a better condition than it has hitherto been.

Turning from these defects, I beg leave to offer some observations upon the changes which have taken place since the Penitentiary has been occupied. The grounds have been cleared of all rubbish, and of the brush and fern, and a great many old dilapidated buildings, which were at one time occupied as officers' and soldiers' quarters, have been removed, as they were not only useless, but rather served as obstructions to the view over the grounds which it is so necessary to possess in an institution of this kind.

The grounds having been thus cleared were turned up, planted, and seeded down with vegetables of every kind, suitable for the convicts during the winter, and also with oats and peas, though to a limited extent, as forage for the horses. The yield has been very good. A light fence has been run round the whole of the property, for the purpose of making the grounds somewhat more secluded. I would suggest, however, that a barrier of a much more substantial character be erected, as soon as possible, to obviate the tempting chances of escape, which are now offered. The surroundings of the Penitentiary are particularly favorable to attempts at escape. Thick underbrush exists in every direction, a ravine is upon one side, and the River Fraser, below, has canoes lying along its banks for a considerable distance.

I forward, herewith, to you the various reports to me of the Warden, Surgeon, Protestant (past and present) and Roman Catholic Chaplains, and the acting Schoolmaster.

The institution is now, in my opinion, in a commendable state of regularity and discipline. The convicts are well-behaved, and the officers, I think, endeavor to do their duty, and enforce the rules.