

ing deadly drink, with its vicious surroundings, that is ruining our boys and girls with such sad and fatal celerity. There seems no limit to the extent of its power over the young to-day. Every prison in the country is full. The Reformatory at Penetanguishene is overcrowded. Toronto and other county jails are filled with prisoners for whom there is no room in the Central Institutions, and in these jails in absolute idleness and in all the freedom of evil associations, a terribly dangerous class to society is under our *paternal* system being actually developed.

One bright light in our work this year is the fact that it has had more evident fruit than in any other year; and this we believe to be owing to the youthfulness of the greater number. There is still so much of good to work upon, that kindly and loving influences tell greatly with them; so we do thank God and take courage. But if these young criminals were only dealt with intelligently in our prisons—separated from the evil influences of older and more hardened criminals—how many restorations to the right path might be achieved among those who have but little more than stepped aside. May every one in this Canada of ours who feels a kindly interest in these young people, demoralized primarily by legalised drinking traps and secondarily by a criminally defective prison system, join us in striving for deliverance from both these evils.

In the early part of the year we sent an invitation to those whom we thought were interested in prison reform to attend a convention on this subject. Many friends from different parts of the Dominion were present with us. Appended herewith, we submit a short synopsis of the proceedings, and earnestly commend the points noted to the careful consideration of those who desire to promote such measures as are calculated to further the object we have in view.

Our practical work has been greatly increased this past year. To shew its general increase the following figures for the past five years will suffice :—