

THE COURIER

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Wednesday, October 8, 1913.

THE HOSPITAL YEAR.

The report of the hospital year for the month ending with September last, tells in eloquent terms of the progress of this excellent institution. An increase in patients of considerably over one hundred and in receipts of nearly \$3,000, serves to impressively demonstrate the all round advance which has been made.

It is not that there has been so much sickness, but that public confidence and appreciation have shown a steady advance. The demands are now becoming so great that the building of the nurses home, and other hospital additions are seen to have been fully warranted, in fact have come in the nick of time. In Hamilton and Winnipeg, the citizens find themselves up against a serious lack of accommodation and enlargement will have to be rushed.

Brantfordites will not take any pleasure out of the dilemma of those two places, but they can most decidedly congratulate themselves upon the fact that local needs were anticipated in time and have been splendidly met.

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Women on the Farm. Mr. A. P. Sandell, Secretary of Agriculture for Ohio, makes the statement that the tendency of so many young men to leave the farm will never be stopped to any appreciable extent unless the girls are induced to remain there also.

In this regard he has sent out 50,000 letters to farmers' wives asking for suggestions as to improved conditions. There can be no doubt that in a general way the wives and daughters of agriculturists have to work about as hard as the men. They have many compensations in rural life, of course but also many exactions which women of the town do not have to face.

A REPRIEVE. Charles Gibson, a young Toronto man awaiting execution has been reprieved at the last moment. The evidence that he killed another man was most conclusive. The jury didn't doubt that, neither did the Judge nor any one else who heard, or read the evidence.

On the top of that the Minister of Justice after he had carefully reviewed the testimony told his colleagues in council, that he could not under the circumstances recommend a reprieve. Then petitions were started in the Queen City and pathetic appeals were made on behalf of the comparative youth who was awaiting the hangman's rope. They were signed by over fifty thousand people and as the outcome Gibson escapes a punishment which a jury, a judge, a Minister of Justice and the testimony showed he deserved.

The incident more than anything else shows that a great many people are averse to the extreme penalty. They do not seem to remember that the individual who slays another does so of his own initiative and without the slightest chance of fair play such as that accorded himself, until the crime is brought home. Many people will think that there is much of the maudlin about the matter.

Human life is very precious and it cannot be too safely guarded. To hang a proven murderer is not a vindictive, but a just act, and one which the experience of other places that have abolished capital punishment, has proved to be a greater deterring to reckless killing than anything else.

Ernest Kemp, aged 27, an aeronaut, was drowned in Thunder Bay River, at Alpena, Mich., when he came entangled in the ropes of his parachute.

Conference Here Today On Prison Farm Idea

Resolution Carried at Noon, All But Brant County Representative Voting in Favor of the Scheme.

Representatives of five counties, Brant, Waterloo, Norfolk, Perth and Oxford, gathered here to-day to discuss the idea of establishing a prison farm. Shortly before the adjournment at 1 o'clock, a resolution was carried, all present, with the exception of Brant County representatives, voting for the resolution. An adjournment was made until 2.30 this afternoon.

Warden Denton of Oxford was chairman of the meeting. The chairman did not think it necessary to outline the movement as it had been dealt with previously. A paper could not be picked up without an account of an escape from jail being read, but there was seldom an account seen of a person escaping from the Guelph farm. The time had come when prisoners would not stand for being placed in the jails. This could hardly be wondered at as the individual confined is accustomed to an active life. All is so different at the Guelph farm. There was good food and all that goes to develop manhood. The industrial farm was referred to by the chairman as "a great boon to humanity in this fair country of ours."

At the conclusion of the chairman's address, Ald. Charlton read the Industrial Farm Act.

Dr. Bruce Smith. Dr. Bruce Smith explained Clause 3 of the act which does not cover cases coming under the criminal code. The clause went as far as the Ontario Legislature could go. In the current legislature an act had been drafted which would clean up this act and by so doing allow those persons to be committed to the farm. The doctor stated that 30 per cent. of the commitments are for offenses against the provincial and city laws. At the Toronto Industrial farm, vagrants and drunks only are taken. The act is clear and concise and gave the municipal bodies full power to establish a farm without the consent of the municipality. The speaker urged the meeting to first decide whether to establish or not and then take the matter to the several councils. From the first the Doctor had not heard any criticism through the press or otherwise.

Clause 8 of the act gave the Sheriff full supervision over the farm, just the same as he had supervision over the jails at the present time. In the establishment of a farm the relation of the municipalities in such matters is not curtailed. The industrial farm was not for the punishment of the prisoners but for the physical and moral welfare of the prisoner. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop," declared the speaker. The magistrates have the power to send the prisoner to the farm for a period of not more than 5 years. Each month the department receives a report on each prisoner, and if the report is such as to warrant it the parole board gives the prisoner his freedom. The speaker then compared the difference between the sending of a prisoner to the jail and to the farm. In the jail the prisoner sits in idleness, the jailor having no work for the prisoner to do. It is easy to blame the sheriff and the jailor, but it is not their fault. The privilege to establish prison farms, the speaker referred to as advanced legislation. There was no doubt in the speaker's mind as to the industrial farms in Ontario being self-sustaining. Since the conference at Guelph a discussion had taken place in which it had been brought out.

In the neighborhood of one year ago a superintendent with 10 prisoners and 3 tents, had located on a 100 acre tract which required to be cleared. Considerable progress was made last year, and this year the train on the farm stood as high as a man's head. The superintendent in charge at Fort William will guarantee that the farm will be more than self-sustaining. Dr. Smith suggested that a committee of managers could be appointed from the municipalities to deal with matters pertaining to the farm, a committee similar to a house of refuge committee, when several counties were using the same building. The speaker when asked concerning the maintaining of jails in the counties where there was a farm established stated that there would always be a place for remanded and those convicted of capital offenses. He suggested a union jail. As far as the financial end of the scheme was concerned the municipalities had nothing to fear. It was simply a case of taking up a piece of land. There was no need of fancy architecture.

Owing to Dr. Smith having commended the local jail Councillor Cook took occasion to state that probably an inspector would come along and condemn the building. The Inspector or continuing spoke of the very simple methods of establishing a farm and the moral and physical benefits of such an institution. There were provisions made whereby those depending on the prisoners would not suffer while he is confined. The prisoner was allowed to smoke. Ald. Ward asked as to the maintenance of the farm. The doctor stated that the amount now being received to maintain the county jails would be forthcoming.

Ald. Charlton asked who would bear the cost of conveying the prisoners from the municipality to the prison used jointly by the municipalities.

Dr. Smith replied that there would have to be an arrangement. He thought the time was coming in Ontario when county jails would entirely be done away with. The speaker dealt with the movement in Switzerland. Wanted Something Done. Deputy Reeve Welling of Ingersoll said that the matter had now been under consideration for some weeks and the time had come for something definite to be done. So far as the humanitarian standpoint was concerned, he believed that such a farm would be a decided advantage over the present county jail system, while from a financial standpoint, the county also stood to gain. The only objection he had heard was that the county jails would not be done away with, even if an industrial farm was started. This, he said, might be true at first but the time would not be long until the county jails would be done away with and all the prisoners transferred to the farm. Regarding the location of such a farm, Mr. Walley said that Oxford, although they had originated the idea, were not looking for any pull. The question where the farm would be placed should be given careful consideration and the best location chosen. "Let us have something definite, something tangible to report to our councils when we go back," said Mr. Walley.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

resolution, the clause, "have on various occasions approved of the establishment of a joint industrial farm." Other speakers endeavored to point out that the resolution as proposed was not binding but the Brant County representatives refused to see it that way, demanding that they be allowed to go back to their council and report on what they saw at Guelph before any other move was taken in the matter. From this stand they refused to move, although nearly 30 minutes were taken up by various speakers in urging them to change their minds, but it was no go. "If we want to go into it later on we will do so," was all that the Brant men would say.

HE IS REPRIEVED. OTTAWA, Ont., Oct. 8.—The cabinet has commuted to life imprisonment the sentence of death imposed upon Charles Gibson, the Toronto murderer. The decision was reached yesterday, but official announcement was delayed until to-day pending the return of Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, administrator for the governor-general to affix his signature to the commutation. He gave his assent this afternoon.

Telephone City Court Meeting. At the meeting of Telephone City Court, C.O.F. last night, three initiatives took place and several applications were made. The meeting was presided over by McKay. The meeting was held on Oct. 21, is being looked forward to with a great deal of pleasure.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE. A meeting of the general committee to consider how to beautify and improve Brantford will be held in the Council Chamber at 8 o'clock, Friday evening, the 10th inst. Programme: 1. How to improve present parks and play grounds; 2. Do we need a large park? 3. Suggestions in reference to Water Works property; 4. Outline prudent "park policy" for future. All the members of the committee are particularly requested to be present.

Harvest Thanksgiving. Services were held in Echo Place Anglican Mission last Sunday. The large double room on the west side of Mohawk Villa, formerly used as a school room, had been converted into a most ornate little chapel, and Echo Place is to be congratulated on the appearance of its temporary spiritual home. The beautiful decorations and hearty singing of the good old Harvest hymns, emphasized the nature of the occasion. Mr. Arthur Chipping, licensed as a lay reader by the Bishop of Huron, assisted the incumbent, Rev. C. V. Lester, who preached both morning and afternoon to large congregations. We understand that steps have already been taken with a view to building a church in the spring.

Mr. E. Weaver of Waterloo said that after listening to Dr. Bruce Smith, he had a greater appreciation of the idea than ever before. He believed that the committee had gone as far as it could just at the present time and should now reach out after further information. He therefore moved the following resolution: Moved by L. E. Weaver and seconded by A. E. Buchanan, that as the joint committee have on various occasions approved of the establishment of a joint industrial farm, the various municipalities interested be asked to officially approve of the scheme, and appoint a committee of two, with power to obtain full information as to cost, get an option on a suitable piece of land and otherwise complete arrangements for the institution of such a farm.

A number of speakers, including Ald. Spence and Mr. W. S. Brewster of this city pointed out what a shame it would be to have the news cast abroad that Brant County Council was not in favor of a scheme of this kind. Mr. Brewster stated that their action in refusing to vote they had decided against the principle of the thing. The resolution submitted only showed that those delegates present were personally in favor of the industrial farm scheme and did not bind any of the representatives in the least. Mr. Brewster could not understand why the Brant representatives could not vote for the principle of the thing anyway. The chairman asked if Brant desired the vote to be taken over again. "Let the vote stand, if we want to go into the scheme later on, we will appoint our delegates and notify you" was the answer.

Ald. Charlton of Brantford thought that such a resolution was going too far at the present time. He thought Marys stated that he was the first municipality should first be given a chance to go back to their councils and report what had already been done. Councillor Stauffer stated that the resolution bound nobody to enter the scheme if they did not see fit and he thought that it would be only wise to go ahead and get some definite information regarding the cost of farm, etc. before going back and asking the councils whether they favored it or not.

Mr. W. B. Butcher, mayor of St. Marys stated that he was the first representative of the County of Perth to attend the meetings of the committee. The humanitarian side of the question appealed to him. He was in favor of the resolution.

Ald. Spence said that now the preliminary skirmish was over the committee must have something definite. He could not see why any of the delegates should hesitate to vote on a motion to seek more information. A vote was taken on the resolution all those present voting in favor with the exception of the delegation from Brant County Council. When asked for an explanation these gentlemen stated that they were not ready to vote, wishing to submit the proposition to their council before going any farther.

Mr. W. S. Brewster, M. P. although not a member of the committee stated that he would not like to see the scheme blocked and especially by a vote of the Brantford County Council. He thought that the difficulty could be overcome by leaving out of the

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A Kick About Coal Quality. Alex. Richardson stated he was employed by the city and went with the post office property to get a couple of planks at the time of the fatality. He saw the plank fall that struck Marlett and killed him. Witness said he ran and picked Marlett up and then ran into the store of Howie and Feeley and phoned for the doctors. This was all the evidence taken and the jury retired and brought in the above verdict.

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