

The Inspector made a full Report of the result of his inspection, pointing out at length every thing that was necessary to be done before the building could be used as a Gaol.

A copy of the Report was sent to the Honorable Commissioner of Public Works on the 22nd November.

ST. JOHN'S.

(*District of Iberville.*)

The Inspector who visited this Gaol during the summer reported to the Board the defective state of the roof of the Gaol, and again called attention to the fact of the worthlessness of the Prison locks. A copy of the Inspector's Report was sent to the Provincial Secretary for the information of the Government.

IMPROVEMENT IN PRISON DISCIPLINE.

In their Report for 1866, the Inspectors gave a brief summary of the principal improvements in the Prison system of Canada, which they had up to that time submitted for consideration of the Government and the country.

The summary referred to may be here repeated, with one or two slight modifications.

1. The establishment of a class of Prisons intermediate between the Common Gaol and the Penitentiary, to be called "Central" or "District Prisons." In these Prisons should be confined all prisoners whose term of sentence exceeds 30 or 40 days and is less than three years. They should be under the control of the Government, and their discipline should resemble that of the Penitentiary.

2. Separate Confinement should be made the basis of the system of discipline in all Prisons.

3. "Hard Labor," that is, Penal unproductive labor, as distinguished from industrial labor, should form part of the ordinary sentence of all prisoners sent to any Gaol or Penitentiary.

4. "Whipping" should be resorted to as a punishment for such offences, and for such offenders as may now, under the recent Imperial Statutes, be punished in that way, in England, Ireland or Scotland. "Whipping" should be employed, either as a substitute for part of the sentence of imprisonment, or, in the case of offenders under 14 or 16, instead of imprisonment.

5. No child under 12 years of age should, under any circumstances, be sent to a Common Gaol.

In the absence of any Homes or Refuges, recognized by law, for the reception of these unfortunate children, they should be admonished or whipped, or sent to a Reformatory Prison.

The Inspectors are gratified to find that their suggestions have met the approval of the principal authorities on such matters in the United States.

The able Commissioners of the New York Prison Association* refer in terms of approbation, to the suggestions of the Board on the subject of "Central Prisons," and strongly urge (for reasons very similar to those urged by the Inspectors) the Legislature of New York to establish Prisons, of the same character as the "Central Prisons" recommended by the Board, to be designated "District Prisons."

DRY EARTH CLOSETS.

The substitution of the "Dry Earth Closets" for "Water Closets" has for the last three or four years been going on very generally in many of the Gaols and other Public Institutions, as also in many private residences in England.

Previous to the general adoption of this system in England the authorities in India had recognized its value and introduced it, in a very simple form, into all the Gaols of that country. In their last Official Report the Indian authorities pronounce the system as perfectly successful and extremely simple.

*Report on the Prisons and Reformatories of the United States and Canada, page 60.