

a lenity rather apt to encourage them than to lessen the number, I was left with no alternative but to use the whip; and I am in position to say, that the operation—though having recourse to it with regret—has made such an efficient impression, that I now feel hopeful it will be a long time before I am compelled to resort to it again.

On their part the officers without any exception do appreciate favourably the advantages of the present system.

Though in the first place, however, all seem to be apprehensive and doubtful as to its practical efficiency. But after an experimental trial, witnessing practically the unexpected success, every one of them gave it his cordial and unreserved approbation; and there does not remain a single one to-day—I affirm it without fear of being contradicted—that does not give his preference to the new over the old system, and would not consider it a misfortune to return back to the latter.

In one word, I am satisfied in every respect, with the zeal shown by the officers in the performance of their duties of all sorts; and if it be true that the service in that regard requires much improvement yet, it is not less true that some progress has taken place, and that there is reason to hope for more in course of time.

The work of construction in the inside of the west wing, after being interrupted in April, 1882—in order to continue that of the new building—in the first place intended for a refectory, was resumed in November last, and each of its 132 cells was completely provided with its required set of furniture in time for the transfer therein of the occupiers of the north dormitory on the first day of March last.

The work of the excavation of the main sewer and laying down of its pipes, have been carried on with vigor during winter, and up to the middle of June, when having reached the railway line of the North Road, they had to be stopped.

It being now necessary to have an understanding with the Company of that road, in view of building underneath it a tunnel, I wrote to Mr. Davis, its superintendent, who obligingly provided me with the plan of the wooden work to be done under the rail bed, in order to obviate any accident resulting therefrom.

In April last the masonry work of the building in construction was resumed. The handwork necessary to the steady progression of that construction has been incessantly supplied to the surveying, architect, and I entertain the certitude that the building will be closed up, that is the masonry finished, its roof covered up, and the windows set in their places towards the 1st of October next. A sufficient number of prisoners are to be employed to the finishing of the inside work during winter.

On the 21st June, a certain number of convicts, in charge of the officers who had been employed superintending the works of the main sewer, commenced to make bricks, and the work will be carried on up to September next.

On the 14th March last, I addressed to you a memorandum recommending that the quarries of the Penitentiary be left to outsiders under contract, instead of being worked by the convicts. I have reason to expect that my suggestions will be favorably received, and carried into effect at a timely date.

The dormitory wings, east and west, are fine constructions, strongly built, and quite suitable for the purposes for which they were put up. In one of those two constructions, however, the west wing, there is a notable defect in its system of ventilation. The occupants of it feel the hurtful effect of the defects and complaints are daily uttered by them. An improvement in this direction is becoming indispensable.

As to the main body of the buildings of the Penitentiary, built in the first place as a reformatory prison for juvenile offenders, it is greatly inefficient in many respects, especially considering that that building contains all the offices, the visitors' hall, hospital, school and libraries, as well as the all-important store of the Steward. I have to add that the distribution inside being very defective, the service is thereby rendered incommodious and the watch laborious and difficult.

Again, its walls and flooring look to be in a state of decay, presenting a dark and dilapidated aspect, and making an almost sad contrast with the penitentiaries that I have had occasion to visit, both in the United States and Canada.