

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada.

It is the pleasing duty of the Association to report the particulars of another year's work which has been distinguished by a steady increase in quiet usefulness to the class for whose benefit the Society was founded. The conviction has been more strongly impressed on the minds of the active members of the Association, that there is really a greater need for the work than ever before, owing to the great increase in the number of young men and women who are now found in the Prisons. It is a fact, which should command more attention than it does, that vice and crime are now taking such a hold of the young—while this is being written the Central Prison here has within its walls 150 more than it is constructed to accommodate, and it is the saddest sight possible to see such numbers of nice looking, bright young faces crowded two in each narrow cell, in many cases learning from hardened companions that which will more definitely determine them in their downward course.

What is the cause of this terrible increase of youthful crime? First and foremost we assert (as the result of experience of many years) is the temptations and the destructive influences of the licensed tavern, evil literature and the early use of tobacco add their quota to the down run of the stream, but it is the never fail-