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REPORT OF THE ORDNANCE LAFD. Toronto, 26th May, 1858.

To the Honorable
The Secretary of the Province.

Sir,—Having been honored by a Commission to report upon the applicability of the Military Posts of *Penetanguishene* and *Isle aux Noix* to the purposes of juvenile reformatories, my attention has been drawn, in the course of the enquiry, to the readiness and economy with which other barracks and buildings at other military stations, now transferred to the Province as part of the Ordnance Lands, might be converted to the objects of Public Institutions, the want of which is universally admitted, and the establishment of which is contemplated by the 33d sect. of the Act 20 Vict. cap. 28, being "An Act for establishing Prisons for young offenders, for the better Government of Public Asylums, Hospitals, and Prisons, and for the better construction of Common Gaols."

I take the liberty, therefore, of bringing these subjects under the notice of His Excellency the Governor General, in connection with my report of the 20th inst. on the subject of Juvenile Reformatories.

It is admitted, on all sides, with pain and compunction, that in *Lower Canada* the accommodation for Lunatics is distressingly insufficient; that in neither *Upper* nor *Lower Canada* does there exist a receptacle for the human custody of the idiot, the maniac, the incurable. In fact, that of our upper classes many of those thus unhappily or calamitously afflicted, are removed, from necessity, to foreign establishments, far from the eye of friends, and where the money expended would have contributed to the support of a similar establishment in *Canada*.

It is known that in neither Province do we possess an Asylum for the Deaf, the Dumb, or the Blind, nor do we possess in the *Upper Province* a proper Marine Hospital for the reception of the diseased, the maimed or the frost-bitten mariner of our lakes.

The Act 20 Vict., cap. 28, evidently contemplates the speedy establishment of an Asylum for Idiots as well as Institutions for the reception and instruction of the deaf, the dumb, and the blind. The generous donation of the Ordnance Lands by the Imperial Government, affords the Province a speedy and cheap means of supplying these deficiencies, and having satisfied myself, by an examination of similar Institutions, during my late visit to *Boston* and *Portland*, on the subject of Juvenile Reformatories, of the applicability of many of the buildings on the Ordnance Reserves throughout *Canada* to like purposes, I beg leave respectfully to bring my views under the notice of His Excellency the Governor General.

1. I propose to convert the barracks and buildings at *St. Johns, C. E.*, to the use of a Lunatic Asylum for *Lower Canada*. We find by the census of 1851-52, that we have in *Lower Canada* 1,733 Lunatics; of this number one half is presumed to be idiotic. The excellent establishment at *Beauport* receives 400 Lunatics. The remainder throughout to be provided for, without delay. To effect with the least delay, let us avail ourselves of existing buildings disposable for the purpose; we have them, made to our hands, at *St. Johns*.

St. Johns is within twenty miles of *Montreal*, at all times accessible by Railroad, and from some parts of the Province also by water. It is situated pleasantly on the *River Richelieu*, in one of the healthiest parts of the Province the barracks and buildings are of brick, covered within. The barracks and officers' quarters consist of four separate buildings, forming four sides of a large square and calculated to accommodate 600 men with the ordinary complement of officer. They are surrounded by a remains of old earth-works, sufficient to assist greatly to detain the inmates without obtrusive evidence of detention. They might easily by

the healthful labor of the inmates be made highly ornamental. The officers' quarters, fronting on the *River Richelieu*, with pleasure grounds intervening, might be adapted for the reception of patients whose means would enable them to pay the expense of extra accommodation. The barracks are surrounded by about 85 acres of land, affording scope for those horticultural occupations, or recreations which have been so successfully practiced at *Hanwell*, and other great institutions in *Europe*.

I conceive that the expense of adapting these buildings to the above purposes would be small, while little time need be lost in carrying it into effect. 2. I propose to convert the stone hospital and part of the buildings *Laprairie*, to wit, the officers' quarters, to the purpose of a receptacle for idiots, maniacs and all incurable lunatics. I know not how far the expression is correct, but I mean those whose hopeless or excessive malady may affect injuriously, convalescent patients. In former reports, 3d July, 1857, and 10th March, 1858, I had recommended that the materials of these buildings should be sold. To a considerable extent I beg to retract that opinion; I still propose to sell and get rid of the materials of the old cavalry and artillery barracks and stables, which, still good so far as the materials are concerned, are going to ruin as buildings, and are not worthy of repair, and indeed useless if repaired; I propose to sell off all but the buildings first above mentioned, to repair and maintain the present picket fence, which encloses ten or twelve acres of land and the said buildings, and with such additions as may be necessary of the extent or character of which I am not prepared to speak make it an asylum for idiots, &c., for the *Lower Province*.

If in the absence of accurate data, the assumption is correct that one half of the parties registered on the census rolls of 1851-52, are idiots, we have in *Canada* 1407 individuals of this unhappy class, totally, as I believe, unprovided for.

Laprairie is within nine miles of *Montreal*, accessible by steamboat in summer and in winter across the ice. The buildings are so far from the Village, as to remove all objections on that account.

3. I propose to establish an Asylum for the deaf, and dumb, and blind, of *Lower Canada*, in the Infantry Barracks at *Chambly*. These buildings are of stone, in good repair and order, and are delightfully and healthfully situated on the rapids of the *Richelieu* at that place. *Chambly* abounds in all the supplies necessary for such an establishment. I have already suggested in my reports of 16th March, 1857, 4th July, 1857, and 10th March, 1858, that the materials of the old Cavalry Barracks at *Chambly* should be sold at auction, and the proceeds of the sale, with those of the materials of the barracks at *Laprairie* should be applied to the restoration of the old Fort; Fort *Pontchartrain*, the oldest and even yet, the most perfect fortalice of the kind in America. I again respectfully bring this subject under the notice of His Excellency, fortified, however, on this occasion by the expression of my belief, that if restored, this building would serve well as an Hospital for the sick both of the deaf and dumb, and of the blind institution; I beg leave to remark that I propose to place the deaf and the blind in separate buildings, and that there is in the vicinity, accommodation for the officers of such establishments, also the property of the Government.

I find by the census returns of 1851-52 that *Lower Canada*, contains 865 deaf mutes and 554 blind—1418 in all. In providing for these unfortunates it is necessary to classify further into deaf-mutes: males, 514; females, 351; blind males, 408; females, 246. To provide for these numbers and for the classification of sexes, *Chambly* would be inadequate, but if the general idea meets with approval, we have the barracks at

Three Rivers (which I have not as yet had time to visit personally), which might be made to receive a portion of each description of the afflicted, or perhaps the whole of one description—say the less numerous—the blind. Even if the accommodation is insufficient, much may be done with little delay—and, I believe, with little expense, to relieve a large amount of human suffering. It is almost unnecessary to add that the interest which attaches itself to the relief of those, whom God had been pleased thus to visit, counterbalances every other feeling; and that these establishments, even in the heart of cities, are unobjectionable.

In *Upper Canada* the provision for Lunatics is more extensive than in *Lower Canada*, and I am led, to understand, that further arrangements are contemplated for the reception of this class of patients. I do not believe that there is in *Upper Canada* any special receptacle for idiots or incurable insensates: I therefore propose—

4. That on the final relinquishment of *Fort Malden* to the Province, the barracks and buildings at that port should be devoted to this object. *Fort Malden, Amherstburg*, is accessible to all parts of *Upper Canada* by water and by Rail-road to *Windsor*, and the buildings referred to are at sufficient distance from *Amherstburg* and yet near enough for supplies.

5. I propose further, that the barracks and buildings at *London, C. W.*, when finally relinquished should be appropriated to the purposes of Deaf and Dumb and Blind Institutions for *Upper Canada*. It is unnecessary for me to dilate upon the advantages of the site. The fact that we have public buildings on the spot applicable at once to this humane object may be regarded as most fortunate; the number of blind and of deaf-mutes in *Upper Canada* is little more than one half the number of the same class returned from the *Lower Province*. Of deaf-mutes in *Upper Canada*, we have 289; males 289; females 169; total 478; of blind males 185; females 131—total 316. The barracks at *London*, which consist of two large distinct buildings and a hospital, which may be used in common, would, I conceive, receive a large proportion of the whole, with a necessary classification.

Finally, I propose to use the barracks and buildings at *Niagara* as a Marine Hospital for the service of Canadian mariners on the Lake; buildings are there sufficient for the purpose, the situation is pleasant and most healthful, central it appears to me, and convenient to the *Welland Canal*, the grand central artery of a like provision in *Canada*.

The Government of *Canada* possess in the buildings above enumerated the rudiments of institutions which may, consequently, be created at once, at little cost, with great gain to humanity and to the national character of *Canada*. Future expansions and future changes may be made in accordance with circumstances and with experience. Enough will be done at present if we are enabled to begin.

Having endeavoured to show how far and what way these public buildings may be made useful to the province. I take advantage of the occasion to show further, that the application of these buildings to the proposed purposes will not only, to a considerable extent, attain the object contemplated by the Statute 20 Vict., chap. 28, but will go far to realize the purpose for which the Ordnance properties were generously transferred to the Province, by creating a fund for the support of a Provincial Militia and Police.

These buildings represent to the Province, (apart from the consideration of time saved,) the money it would have cost to erect them. The land connected with them, if bought by the Province, at an arbitrary price, would unquestionably have cost much more than the value I shall put upon it. I consider therefore that in applying these

buildings and land to philanthropic objects of Provincial concernment, the Legislature should fairly estimate and capitalize their value, placing the interest of the capital sum annually to the credit of the Militia Fund.

I estimate the money value of these lands and buildings to the Province (if employed as above proposed); including also the value of the lands and buildings at *Penetanguishene* and *Isle aux Noix*, appropriated to the purposes of Juvenile Reformatories, and reported on by me on the 20th inst., to be as follows:—

Upper Canada.	
Penetanguishene	\$25,000
Fort Malden	25,000
Niagara	25,000
London	50,000
	\$125,000
Lower Canada.	
Isle aux Noix	\$125,000
St. Johns	100,000
Laprairie	25,000
Three Rivers	25,000
Chambly	50,000
	\$1,000,000

In connection with this subject should be added the value of the Ordnance property at the City of *Ottawa*, available for Government Buildings, 500,000. Add the value of lots on the *Rideau Canal* in the vicinity of, but beyond the limits of the City, the value of which will be enhanced by the advent of the Government, 50,000.

\$1,000,000
It may, I think, be fairly assumed, that if these lands and buildings are made use of, as suggested, the Province will have acquired property worth one million of dollars, and applicable instantly to the most important public purposes, without any advance of capital, and I presume there will be no difficulty in crediting the Militia Fund with the interest annually, to wit:—\$60,000.

It may not be irrelevant to the present subject to add, that although, under actual circumstances, it would be difficult to assign a reliable value the remainder of the Ordnance properties, comprehending the lands on the *Rideau* and *Ottawa* Canals, the Seignior of *Sorel*, lands at *Toronto* (some of which sold for upwards of \$4,000 per acre, in January, 1857), at *Kingston*, *London*, *Chatham*, and at almost all the salient points of the Frontier, acquiring value daily for Railway and other Public purposes: still it cannot be unreasonable to place upon them, (\$3,877 acres in all,) the value placed upon by the Ordnance Department, a value moderate in itself, and so estimated at a time when the value of lands in *Canada* was lower than at present. The estimated value of these lands by the Ordnance Department is £340,000, or \$1,360,000 Currency.

If, therefore, the Province has acquired by the transfer of these lands, a property worth \$5,360,000 Currency, under a guarantee contained in the Act of Parliament, (18 Vict., cap. 91, vide first and last clauses), that the proceeds shall be applied to the formation of a fund for the support of a Provincial Militia and Police, the Legislature can have no hesitation, in pursuance of the terms of the contract, whether these properties be appropriated by the Province to Provincial purposes or be sold or retained, in applying annually the interest of the above Capital value, or the sum \$141,600, equal to 1135,400, to the support of the Militia and Police of the Province, in addition to any sum, which, independent of this assistance, the exigencies of these important services like *Canada* ordinarily require. I beg leave to remark, in conclusion, that the application of these barracks and buildings to the proposed objects will still leave them available for purposes of defence, if ever so required; and I propose that at *Penetanguishene* and *Isle aux Noix*, the labour of the inmates of the proposed establishments should be primarily