

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF PENITENTIARIES

AS TO

DOMINION OF CANADA,

FOR THE YEAR 1876.

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*To the Honourable EDWARD BLAKE, Q.C., Minister of Justice :*

SIR,—In accordance with the requirement of the Penitentiary Act, I have the honour to place before you my Second Annual Report upon the Penitentiaries of the Dominion and the Rockwood Criminal Lunatic Asylum; also to submit the reports and the financial and statistical returns furnished, conformably to rule by the several officers of the institutions under my supervision.

The reference which I felt called upon to make last year to the large share of prompt attention which the affairs of the several Penitentiaries, and of the Rockwood Asylum received at your hands, even when you were occupied with matters of high importance, is just as appropriate now as it was a year ago. Whenever it was necessary to submit any question for your consideration or decision, I found no difficulty in the way—you were ever accessible. Hence, you disposed of a great number of old cases, which had lain over for some years, to examine into and to deal with which required time and patience. There is, consequently, hardly any case of long standing now awaiting action.

It is very advantageous to the proper working of the system, and satisfactory to all concerned, to have the business of each institution despatched at the earliest moment after it has come before the Department. So far, Sir, as you are concerned, nothing connected with the Penitentiaries or the Asylum that could be disposed of to-day, has been deferred till to-morrow. This characteristic promptitude on the part of the supreme head of all the Penitentiaries and their officials has had a beneficial effect. The good example, permit me to say, has given a stimulus, active and healthy to all within reach of its influence in the institutions under my direction.

In addition to the general and contingent accounts, which have been always furnished to the Department, for audit and payment, every month, reports, which I referred to last year, have been sent in, since March last, from all the Penitentiaries, regularly with the accounts. These consist of the nominal lists of convicts received and discharged, statement of movements of convicts, statement of work done and its value, return of receipt and issue of goods from store, the issue of daily rations in dining hall, and returns of revenue and expenditure. These returns are very useful