

convicts industry. It will be so necessarily for some years to come yet, owing to the constructions which remain to be done.

The amount of the appropriations voted by Parliament for the maintenance of the institution during the fiscal year, 1882-83, was..... \$86,164 59

EXPENDITURE.

The total of the expenditure incurred for its maintenance during same year was..... \$2,659 66

Leaving a surplus of..... \$3,504 93

But that balance has been expended in paying up the gratuities granted in 1881 and 1882 to officers retired from the service, and for which no appropriation had been provided for that year.

Economy has been practised in every department, as much at least as the efficiency of the service allowed it; but the high prices paid during the year for victualling, and the purchase of potatoes, of which the farm, as well as others around, did not yield a large crop, have not permitted me to realize a larger amount of savings at least for this year.

I have reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the convicts in general; they have been submissive to the rules of discipline, and more attentive to their work.

That improvement has especially shown itself under the system of meals taken in cells by all the convicts, which was inaugurated on the 22nd of March last.

Indeed I have but reason to be highly satisfied with the results gained by the introduction of the system, and its operation, which proves to be so admirably adapted for the maintenance of good order and discipline.

Its working, it is hardly necessary to say, has necessitated numerous alterations, and the making up in gangs of all the convicts into departmental order, to the end that each convict might occupy a cell in the range previously assigned to the gang of which he is a party, and that everyone might occupy the same number of order in all the walking moves to be performed during the day.

The result is, then, that a distinct post is assigned to each convict, which he occupies at any time.

This new organization had had the effect to do away with the minor causes of dissipation, and to put an end to those furtive intercourses which constitute the principal source of demoralization.

Meanwhile, under this new order of things, the convicts are receiving and carrying their victuals well warmed; and each one now being able to eat his meal alone and quietly, may rest or read after. It is nothing very surprising then, if the convict is so pleased with the new *regime*, and gives it preference over the old one, so much so that a perfect silence has been prevailing in the refectories in general during meal hours, in such a measure, that not a single report has been made against any of the convicts for infringement of the rule of silence since the inauguration of the new system. Besides, order prevails generally, and offences of every nature, as well as the reports, consequently have been decreasing in a notable degree.

It is known that when the meals were taken in a common hall, convicts' offences against the rule of silence, as well as other rules, were committed in the refectory.

In fine, as I have stated it above, the prisoners in general show themselves satisfied with the actual system, and I really ignore that there be any one that makes exception: and the whole of them would be equally vexed—with the exception of the half dozen of hardened sinners may be—if later on they were compelled to take their meals in common, and subjected necessarily again to the temptations of dissipating themselves and infringing the rule of silence in particular.

It was a cause of regret to me that I had to inflict corporal punishment to some of the convicts; but the attempted escapes becoming more and more frequent, and the tribunal of justice treating most of the cases of escape or attempts to escape with