

House of Industry, County of Elgin.

The Institution is situated about two miles west of the city of St. Thomas, in the township of Southwold. The first committee was appointed by the Elgin county council in the year 1866, and after ten years discussion in the council it was decided to purchase land and erect a building, and the house was opened on the 7th day of February, 1876.

The building is constructed of brick, with two stories and a basement. The keeper's apartments, kitchen, store room and reception room occupy the centre part, 31 feet by 40 feet. There are three wings, 26 feet by 31 feet, one occupied by the men and the other by the women, while the third is utilized for hospital wards, and sleeping room on the top floor for men. The basement on both sides of the kitchen is used as a dining and day room for the men and women respectively. The basement of the rear wing provides for two bath rooms, shop and a clothes room. There are three storerooms in the basement adjoining the kitchen, also the keepers' dining room. The second flat provides a workroom and parlor for keeper, a reception room, two storerooms, sleeping apartments and day room for women, and sleeping apartment for men, two hospital wards, one for women and one for men, and the third flat provides four bedrooms for the keeper and one sleeping room for women and two for men.

The women's yard is 117x142 feet and adjoins the building. It contains an isolating cottage 24x16 feet, occupied by those who are unable to be kept with the other inmates. The wash house, 25x12 feet, two rooms, is situated immediately in the rear of and 40 feet from the main building, and adjoins the women's yard. The men's yard is 117 x 104 feet and contains a wood-shed 18 x 50, and an isolating cottage 22 x 44 feet, containing five rooms; this is connected with a yard surrounded by a high fence, and is used for confining idiots and male inmates who are unable to look after themselves should they wander from the institution. The barn 30 x 50 feet is situated 150 feet in the rear of the main building, has a stone basement, stable and root cellar. There is also a tool house 20 x 30 and a brick pig pen 18 x 2.

The total amount expended by the County for House of Industry, etc., is as follows:

Farm, 50 acres, cost.....	\$ 3000 00
House of Industry.....	10217 57
Fire escapes.....	382 26
Cottages.....	1413 32
Barns, wood shed, etc.....	1350 84
Tile drains.....	417 10
Tile drain outlet.....	60 70
Fencing.....	709 95
Orchard.....	85 84
Total.....	\$17637 58

Received from government grant on account of expenditure for land and buildings..... 3,000 00

Leaving amount actually expended by County.....\$14,637 50

The land and buildings were valued by the government inspector at \$12,000.00, on 1st January, 1891, and the grant of \$3,000.00 was received from the government during the year and expended in enlarging the institution. A contract has recently been let, amounting to nearly \$2,500.00, for a complete system of hot water heating for the main building, which has heretofore been heated by stoves. When this is completed it is expected that the balance of the government grant, \$1,000 00, will be received.

The farm is fifty acres, divided into eight fields. The house is situated about forty rods from the road, and is approached by a lane, with a row of evergreens and maples on either side. About 1,100 rods of tile drain have been put in from time to time, at a cost of \$477.80. The fields are all fenced with board fence. There is a fine young orchard, occupying six or seven acres, planted when the institution was first opened, and is just beginning to bear well. The farm is found to be large enough to utilize the labor of all the inmates of the institution, which with the assistance of the keeper, has always been found sufficient to work the farm to the satisfaction of the various committees of the county council who have had the supervision of the management. In the year 1891 the produce raised on the farm was valued at \$1155.00, and in addition to this a large amount of vegetables and fruit was raised and consumed during the year of which no account was kept. All the produce raised is consumed on the premises. The soil is not well adapted to the necessities of a farm for this purpose, the greater part of it being heavy clay. The garden is sandy and the balance formerly swampy is composed of black mould usually found where land has been under water. This and the garden is specially adapted to hoe crops, which the character of the labor available is well able to take care of.

One matter that seems to have been overlooked by the authorities when deciding on the location of this institution, is the water supply. Up to the present time the institution has depended entirely on two surface wells to provide drinking water for the inmates and farm stock. Last summer, being very dry, the supply was exhausted. Additional wells have been put down, and it is thought that this difficulty has been overcome for the future. The supply of soft water is collected from the roof of the main building in three large cisterns. This has been found not to be sufficient, and provision is being made for additional cisterns. The amount of water used, or that should be used in connection with a House of Industry, is very large, and in establishing similar institutions other counties should profit by this experience and if possible locate their building where it will not be necessary to depend on cistern or surface well supply.

A difficulty that up to the present time has not appeared to be a very serious one, is now engaging the attention of the management, that is, to provide for drains to carry sewage from the Institution. The farm being situated in a rather flat part of the country, to provide for a sufficient outlet, will require the expenditure of a large amount of money. It has not been decided how this difficulty will be overcome, but provision for sewage is equally as important as water supply, and is one of the first conditions that should have been required in purchasing a farm for this purpose.

The furnishings of the sleeping rooms for the men and women consist of iron bedsteads with straw mattresses, etc. The kitchen is supplied with a large cook stove and agricultural boiler, 30 gallon capacity. A contract for steel cooking range with hot water connection, and the necessary fitting for two bath rooms, has recently been let. Up to this time the management has been able to get along without proper facilities for bathing the inmates, a matter which causes a great deal of extra work, and renders it almost impossible to keep the building in the condition in which institutions of this kind should be.

The farm stock at the present time consists of a team of horses, weighing about 1,100 each, six cows, and some pigs.

The dietary of the inmates includes as much as possible what is raised on the farm. Contracts are let only for supply of bread and meat; groceries and other articles are purchased as required in the cheapest market, and in large quantities. This is different from the practice adopted in some other institutions, and has always been found to work well. During 1891 the daily average of meat was seven and one-twelfth ounces; of bread the daily average was thirteen and seven-thirtieths ounces per inmate. The total amount expended for the support of the inmates during 1891 was \$4,409.56; the average expenses per year for each person was \$60.49. The average expenses per year for each person, with interest on total amount expended by county added, was \$72.80. The average cost per week per inmate during the last ten years is \$1.10 per week. In the above the expenses of salaries, maintenance, medical attendance, clothing and repairs connected with the house and farm are included. Permanent improvements are charged to capital account, and the rate of \$72.80 shows the actual cost per year to the county for every expenditure in connection with the institution. The number of inmates varies from 60 to 85. The building will, at the present time, accommodate 125 inmates. It has been found that there is generally a much larger number of male inmates than female, and that the same amount of room for both would not be sufficient. There is at the present time accommodation for one-half more men than women.