

The report in regard to the Central Prison states that many prisoners are sent there for hard labor on medical certificates who are only fit for the hospital. The total cost for maintenance, with an average of 386.6 prisoners, amounted to \$63,272.32, an average of 44.8 cents per head per day, against which there was a sum of \$25,661.43 realized from industries carried on, which reduced the cost to 26.6 cents per head per day.

General Items.

The senate of Cambridge University has recommended that women should in future be allowed to receive the B.A. and M.A. degrees, and has also decided to confer honorary degrees upon women.

Lord Salisbury says that God's work in confounding the speech of men at the Tower of Babel is being rapidly undone. Newspapers and magazines printed in English will soon become the common literature in all parts of the world, so fast is a knowledge of the English language spreading.

Don Squarzanti, a canon of the Cathedral of Ferrara, Italy, died recently and bequeathed his very large fortune to the statue of the Virgin of the Graces in the cathedral. His poor relatives appealed to the chapter to revoke the bequest, on the ground that a statue could not be a legal heir, but in vain. Who ever heard of the church disgorging money it had once secured for the "glory of God?" Why, this would be acknowledging that a priest could commit a crime.

The case of Mrs. Castle, who was discharged from prison after being convicted of extensive shop robberies, has been followed by a wave of kleptomania. In a letter to the press, one storekeeper tells how he dealt with one culprit whom he caught committing a theft. Taking the apparently well-to-do lady to his office, he offered her the alternative of being arrested or of receiving a good birching. He says he did this to avoid the risk, trouble and expense of prosecution. The lady chose the birching, which was administered so vigorously by the manageress of the store that the lady thief howled for mercy. This species of voluntary lynch law would naturally be a very dangerous plan for storekeepers to pursue, and could hardly be recommended for imitation.

It seems to us that, if the Crow's Nest Pass Railway is put into the hands of the Canada Pacific, with the privileges already granted to the British Columbia Southern, the keystone will be put into that arch of monopoly and jobbery that has over-loaded Canada with debt. The whole system of subsidies and exemptions from taxation is one that should be abolished if Canada is ever to be a free country. At present, instead of needed railways being built at a fair cost, and industries being started at the best commercial centres, the one question is always, How can we secure the biggest bonus? and in most cases the bonus is nearly all the cash invested. In this latest project, the bonuses being angled for would appear to be worth many times the value of the railway to be built.