

CRIMES AND CRIMINALS.

Interesting Extracts From the Report of Warden Johns on the Provincial Jail.

Improvements Made and Suggested—A Budget of Readable Statistics.

In his annual report just completed, Warden Johns, of the Provincial Jail, states that there have been no escapes from custody during the past year and only one attempt—that of a prisoner serving a nine-month's sentence for vagrancy. He succeeded in leaving the gang with the jail fence, was making for the woods when captured.

"He was sentenced to an additional nine months for this offence," remarks the Warden, "and the sentence, a very just one in my opinion, has had a salutary effect upon other prisoners, who are inclined to attempt to regain their liberty before the expiration of their term of service."

"The jail building is in good repair. The balconies in both wings have been replaced and other necessary repairs have been made, the cost being for material only. The sanitary condition of the jail is good, in fact better I believe, than at any previous time since its construction, as a number of important improvements have been made and broken pipes replaced."

"A substantial stone wall, two feet thick and 13 feet high, has been constructed on the outside of the present high wooden fence, the whole being united together and being a thorough protection against strong winds and jail breaking."

"The jail is now heated with hot water instead of coal and wood stoves, so long in use. As the hot water system has only been a short time in use, I am not in a position to state, positively, whether or not it is more economical, but I do think that the heat is more uniform. There is neither dirt nor ashes in any of the rooms or wards, as formerly, and there is greater security from fire, as the heater is placed in the basement and prisoners have no longer any access to fires as was the case when stoves were in use—an important consideration in itself."

"The principal work at which prisoners have been employed during the year, was that of blasting and breaking rock for road-making and repairing. There is a large quantity of broken rock on hand, only a small amount being used by the Lands and Works department on district roads, as the distance of hauling, since the extension of the city limits, has made it unprofitable to utilize the metal. In view of this fact and also that there is but little prospect of disposing of the rock on hand, and as it would not do to keep prisoners sentenced to hard labor and who, no doubt, deserve some degree of punishment in their own venture, suggest that it would be well if some other employment could be found where prisoners would be able to remunerate the province for at least a portion of their keep. This is an important question, and one that will have to be considered sooner or later, and more especially in case stone-breaking be discontinued."

"The general health of the prisoners throughout the year has been good. There have been no cases of typhoid fever, chronic and syphilitic cases, requiring the attention of the jail surgeon among that class of prisoners who are frequently re-committed to jail. To the untiring attention of the jail surgeon, Dr. J. S. Heikonen, no doubt is due the escape of all prisoners from the epidemic prevalent in the city during the summer."

"Religious services and instructions have been supplied to the prisoners throughout the year, by Rev. W. H. P. Arden, who has taken great interest in the good work. The same can also be said of Mr. T. G. Rayner, and several others working under the auspices of the W.C.T.U. That their labors are appreciated and productive of much good is attested by the respectful attention given to their ministrations, and all the more commendable from the fact that their services are voluntary."

"In all well regulated jails it is customary for the officials to wear clothing becoming their employment. In this jail the officers wear no uniform, but are dressed as ordinary citizens in a variety of colors, according to individual taste. As none of the officers are over paid and each has responsible duties to perform, it would be pleased if you would recommend that a uniform be made for suitable uniform."

"In this respect the jail officials are much worse off than members of the city police force, who are supplied with two good suits a year."

The 1892 statistics for the jail are appended:

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For the year..... 59 25 38

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The offenders received at the City lockup during the year may be catalogued as below:

MONTHS. Whites. Indians. Chinese.

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Total..... 940 163 181

The offenders are thus enumerated:

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burglary 1, beating passage 3, cruelty to animals 1, carrying a dangerous weapon 4, cutting and wounding 3, drink 4, discharging firearms contrary to law 2, domestic violence 1, fighting 38, felonious assault 1, highway robbery 3, housebreaking 1, Indians in possession of intoxicants 51, intoxicants supplied to Indians 13, lunatics house of ill fame 13, insulting language 3, infraction of military law 1, infraction Sunday Closing Act 1, infraction of law 1, keeping houses of ill fame 13, lodging 31, larceny 70, malicious injury to property 10, necessary witness 1, obscene language 4, obtaining money under false pretences 4, obtaining goods under false pretences 4, pointing a dangerous firearm 4, possession of stolen property 4, Public Morals Act 10, resisting police 3, refusal to pay wages 4, selling lottery tickets 23, stolen property 4, supplying cigarettes to minors 1, supply to threatening language 2, assault mind 15, vagrancy 27, violating Game Law 1, Violating Liquor Licenses Act 3, violating city by-laws 13, wounding cattle 1.

ANOTHER NEW FACTORY.

Victoria Enriched by the Addition of a Complete Color Making Plant.

The Canada Paint Works Ltd., of Montreal, establish a Branch in Victoria.

The Canada Paint Company Ltd., of Montreal and Toronto, is a new firm who have absorbed the business of Ferguson, Alexander and Company and the William Johnson Company, both of Montreal, and the A. G. Peuchen Company of Toronto. Mr. Robert Munro, late partner with Alexander Ferguson and Company, of Glasgow, Scotland, up to the formation of the new company, was the active partner of Ferguson, Alexander and Company, of Montreal, and on account of his thorough knowledge of the business in every branch of its manufactures (obtained in the management of the Glasgow firm with which he had been connected for about forty years), together with his acknowledged ability and thorough business habits, made his firm come rapidly to the front and made Ferguson, Alexander and Company's brands the recognized standard of paints, varnishes, white lead and dry colors throughout the Dominion.

Such a gentleman was naturally chosen to fill the important post of managing director of the new company and in less than a year the company has obtained the confidence of every storekeeper and jobber in the Dominion who handles paints, and they now do as much business as all the other paint firms in Canada put together.

The progress which the Province of British Columbia had made and the importance of that field for the establishment of a paint factory, were so apparent that it was not long before the management of the new firm to set about establishing a branch there, and finding a suitable location near the centre of Victoria with good harbor accommodation, it was not long before a ship was chartered to bring a cargo of raw materials, and machinery was sent forward with skilled artisans and experts in every line of paint and varnish manufacture in order that the residents of British Columbia might be able to buy in their own Province all kinds of paints, varnishes, white lead and colors made on well known English formulas and by men who knew their business.

This is the first of the kind in the Province, and all that the company asks is a continuance of the business they controlled before coming West, and an increase of business warranted by their being on the spot and supplying the very best of goods that can be obtained at prices that cannot be equalled, thus saving the duty to the buyer and building up the Province by the employment of skilled labor and distributing for wages and sundry charges a large amount of money through the Province.

Their works will be in operation at Janion Wharf, Victoria, about the middle of January, employing about thirty men. Mr. Forrester, the manager for the Province, will be glad to show anyone interested through the works, and takes this opportunity of extending an invitation.

The company are the sole proprietors of all the brands, formulas and trade marks of Ferguson, Alexander and Co., Ltd., Wm. Johnson Co., and the A. G. Peuchen Co., and these being registered trade marks can only be supplied by them. They comprise the following specialties, viz: Wat. Lead, Decor. Elephant, Decor. of colors, according to individual taste. As none of the officers are over paid and each has responsible duties to perform, it would be pleased if you would recommend that a uniform be made for suitable uniform."

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