

with these evasions, but a searching enquiry into each case did not bring culpability home to any officer. Considering the very defective arrangements of the Penitentiary and its surroundings nothing short of constant vigilance and activity on the part of the officers, charged with the safe-keeping of the prisoners, could have prevented a greater number of escapes.

On two occasions, considerable expense was incurred in the pursuit of escaped convicts last summer; I thought the outlay greater than the ordinary means that should be taken to recapture the fugitives justified, and in this opinion you concurred. Instructions have been, accordingly, given to the Wardens to avoid such expenditure in future. A diligent and immediate search in the vicinity of the Penitentiary, a descriptive advertisement in the local newspapers, and the payment of a fair reward for the capture and return to the Penitentiary of the escaped convict are sufficient.

Notwithstanding the crowded state of the prison, the inmates have been remarkably healthy.

An extra guard was appointed last August, owing to the increased number of prisoners.

HALIFAX PENITENTIARY.

This Penitentiary continues to be conducted in a manner that has given me entire satisfaction. The new Warden, Mr. Flinn, has discharged his duties with prudence, zeal, and efficiency. The officers under his control are steady, energetic, and very competent.

The conduct of the convicts, with few exceptions, has been good. The discipline has been strictly enforced, and the rules well observed.

Six convicts succeeded in escaping from the prison yard on the 13th January, 1876, but having been quickly pursued they were captured and brought back to the Penitentiary after some resistance. One of them received a gun shot wound in the leg, which was not of a dangerous nature.

The number of prisoners remaining in the Penitentiary on 31st December, 1875, was 52, viz., 40 male and 1 female convicts, and 11 military prisoners. On the 31st December, 1876, there were 78. Of these, 69 were male and 5 female convicts, with 4 military prisoners.

The average cost per head for 1875 was \$275, and for 1876 \$229.95.

There has been a falling off in the revenue derivable from the manufacture of brooms in this Penitentiary also, owing to the same causes that obtain at St. John.

The sanitary condition of the prison is all that could be desired. Like that at St. John, this Penitentiary occupies a most salubrious position.

The school has been attended by those who require rudimentary education. The teacher, Mr. Cotton, spares no pains to improve his pupils.

The Catholic chapel, as mentioned in the report of the Chaplain, is much too small for the number attending it. It could be enlarged, without much expense, by the addition of part of the hospital, if the Surgeon be of opinion that this can be safely done.

The female convicts have given a great deal of trouble and annoyance. Their conduct, as reported to me by the Warden, has been "very bad, insubordinate and indecent." In order to check such abuse, I enjoined upon that officer the necessity of adopting such repressive means as low diet, solitary confinement, and cutting the hair short. The Matron cannot be at all hours present among them to restrain their bad propensities, and they consequently take advantage of her absence to misbehave. She therefore asks for the appointment of an Assistant Matron, and this request is supported by the Warden. I deem the appointment necessary under the circumstances just stated.