

# Department of Justice.

## DORCHESTER PENITENTIARY.

DORCHESTER, 1st July, 1897.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report, with the usual returns, for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1897.

On the 30th June, 1896, there remained 192 convicts; received since 76 males and 2 females, total 78; discharged during the year 67 males, 1 female, and 4 deaths, total 72, which left remaining at midnight on the 30th June, 1897, 193 males and 5 females, total 198 prisoners, being an increase of 6.

The total expenditure for the year just closed was \$46,157.80 as against \$46,953.24 for the previous year—a decrease of \$795.44. The statutory increases for the past year amounted to \$310.98. There was also included in last year's expenditure chargeable to capital account, \$422.13 paid for water pipe; \$74 for fire hose; \$490.41 for plumbing, &c., in female prison; \$1,752.50 for marsh lands purchased; \$1,000 erecting buildings for the staff. Had the above amounts been charged to capital account our per capita would not have exceeded \$241.

The per capita cost is \$258.63 as against \$259.20 for the previous year—a decrease of 57 cents.

We have during the year erected for the staff, 6 kitchens, 3 semi-detached wood-sheds, and 6 cow-stables.

We have brought under cultivation the usual acreage of bush land the past year.

With your approval I had the stone prepared and will build this summer a stone reservoir of 15,000 gallons capacity, as part of the water system to supply the barns, piggery and officers' cottages with water. I purchased out of last year's appropriation 1,800 feet of 4-inch cast iron water pipe to connect the new reservoir with our present water system to the officers' cottages. The capacity of the spring to supply the cottages with water showed 6,000 gallons per 24 hours, when tested last summer during the driest time.

On account of the scarcity of suitable pine, and the very low price of water pails, the department has decided to discontinue the pail-making industry. We only made about 260 dozens of pails during the past year, which partially accounts for the decrease in our revenue.

Our revenue for the year was \$3,110.16 as against \$4,317.70 for the previous year. Although a decrease in the revenue, there was not an actual loss, for had we made our usual quantity of pails the cost of the material would have been larger than the revenue derived from the sale of them, which would have made our expenditure that much more.

The agency for our woodenware in St. John has been transferred from W. H. Thorne & Co. to T. McAvity & Sons.

With the approval of the Minister of Justice I purchased 30 acres of marsh land, from Mr. Alpheus Palmer, at \$57.50 per acre.

We planted this spring 200 ornamental maple trees in rear of the officers' cottages, along the main road, and on either side of the lane leading to the warden's house.

On account of the very wet weather this spring and summer, I fear that our corn and root crops will be a failure.

We have had very little serious sickness in the prison during the past year. There were four deaths. One old man (coloured) was ill and insane when admitted. The surgeon's report gives the particulars of the different cases.

The only change in the staff was the resignation of Philip Melanson, teamster, and the appointment of Thomas Walsh to take his place.

The conduct of the prisoners has been, with a few exceptions, good.