

County Paupers and County Houses of Industry.

County of Oxford.

The House of Refuge for this County is located near the Town of Woodstock. It was opened March, 1893, and it is one of the best of its kind in the Province. The cost of building, \$17,441. There is two acres of land; cost \$4,413. The total cost complete, including about \$5,000 for furnishing, was \$26,854. It provides for 120 inmates. The first year there was an average of 33. The building is under one roof, but is divided into compartments; material employed is brick. There are two stories above the basement. The cost for maintenance is \$1.84 per week per inmate. It is managed by a Committee appointed by the County Council. These particulars were furnished by James White, Esq., County Clerk. He says he does not hear of any complaints with regard to the establishment of the institution.

We are indebted to the *Municipal World* for the following additional particulars with regard to this excellent institution, as also for the accompanying illustrations.

As shown by the illustration, the building presents a fine appearance. The arrangement of the rooms is such as will be recommended to all as the best in the Province, especially the sleeping rooms, none of which are made to hold more than six beds. This provides for a complete classification of the inmates and is very beneficial.

The building is heated throughout by steam and lighted by electricity. Iron stairways for fire escape are provided at either end of building and are accessible from the main hall. The sleeping rooms are provided with a good quality of iron bedsteads with woven wire mattress and pillow; these are manufactured at the Central Prison and cost the county \$9.00, and are the best we have seen in institutions of this kind. The basement of the building is devoted entirely to storerooms, carpenter shop, wash rooms for the inmates, and furnace rooms. There is also a lockup in which disorderly inmates are confined.

A good barn with basement was on the farm at the time of purchase and also a big house which is occupied by the hired man who is employed on the farm during a portion of the year at \$23 per month. The salary of the keeper and matron is \$200, the physician receives \$200 per annum and the inspector \$100. At the time we visited the institution in June last the number of inmates was 36.

The dietary consists of, for breakfast, one pint of milk with porridge, dish of molasses (good pure syrup—no black strap), a cup of tea and all the bread that each can eat. For dinner, the inmates have soup three times a week, meat every day. 1/2 pound to each inmate, and alternate with soup, potatoes and vegetables. Bread and tea, and meat pie always once a week. For supper, butter, bread, cake once a

sometimes elsewhere, should not be overlooked; all the outbuildings, etc., should be located with that end in view. The male and female inmates should be kept absolutely separate at all times.

For plan of basement, ground and first floors, see next page.

County of Westworth.

At the Westworth Assizes at Hamilton in January last, Justice Robinson addressed the Grand Jury as follows: "Though there is no criminal business on the docket, there are matters of grave public importance on which the Grand Jury might make presentment. He noticed that ten out of the twenty-one prisoners in the common jail are vagrants, and in that connection he would remark that the subject

of the erection of poorhouses is one that should command the attention of all municipal authorities. There are only ten poorhouses in the 36 counties of the Province, and Westworth is one of the counties that has no refuge for homeless unfortunates. A poorhouse should be erected here, and probably if existed these vagrants would not have to be sent to jail. The disgrace of incarceration should not be added to the unhappy lot of the old, infirm and needy. Two or three surrounding counties might combine to

erect a poorhouse. The Prisoners' Aid Society has addressed the Judges also on the classification of criminals. Boys and girls who are arrested for petty depredations should not be herded together with hardened and experienced criminals. Prevention is better than cure, and something should be done to alleviate this condition of affairs. If the Grand Jury of Westworth sees fit it can make such recommendations as can be forwarded to the proper authorities. The Penitentiary Reformatory had not proved as successful as was hoped. The inmates ought to be taught useful trades or something that will enable them to earn a livelihood and become useful members of society."



House of Industry, Oxford County.

week, rice once a week, bread and milk once a week and tea always.

In addition to the above the old people are given eggs once a week, and in season others, and also fruit once a week, and during the summer sometimes as often as three and four times. For Sunday dinner the following is enjoyed: cold meat, pie, bread, tea and pickles, and for tea there are eggs, cake, bread, butter and tea, and very often cold meat is served for supper during the week.

We notice that in the hospital and yards adjoining the institution, no provision has been made for isolation or separation of the sexes. This is a matter that—judging from the experience of the management of similar in-

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