

DORCHESTER PENITENTIARY.

WARDEN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1883.

DORCHESTER PENITENTIARY, 1st July, 1883.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit my third Annual Report on the management of this Penitentiary, with the usual returns, for the fiscal year ended the 30th June, 1883.

The conduct of the staff during the past year has been satisfactory; and under all the difficulties connected with the organization and government of a penitentiary, I have reason to be thankful that you have not as yet been called upon since this prison was opened, in 1880, to investigate any serious difficulties arising between the members of the staff; and I trust we may long continue in that friendly relation so essential to promote the best interests of the institution.

The conduct of the prisoners has not deteriorated, but rather improved; and I am satisfied that the further remission of time allowed will have a most beneficial result in maintaining discipline. We had three attempts to escape during the year, and one of these unfortunate convicts was shot dead. After a very full investigation of the affair by a coroner's jury, their verdict fully justified the shooting. The other attempts to escape did not amount to much, as the runaways were captured within a few minutes. I think we have been fortunate in regard to escapes, when we take into consideration that there is not another prison in America that has anything like the number of convicts in proportion to population working outside the prison walls, and otherwise affording such facilities for escape, as ourselves.

The total expenditure for the year was \$41,709.43, leaving a balance of our estimates unexpended of \$535.87. Out of this expenditure I have paid \$810 for conveying prisoners from Halifax to Kingston, incurred before the prison was opened, besides some other amounts for which I did not make provision in my estimates. I think I can say with truth, the financial affairs of the prison have been conducted with a due regard to economy.

The following work has been completed by convict labor since my last Report: A comfortable dwelling house for the Engineer; a large and commodious root-house and barn, which was much needed; gratings put on the hospital doors and windows by the Engineer; the water-pipes have been laid from the main building to all the officers' houses; hydrants have been placed in position for fire service, and when we have the new reservoir (which will contain 200,000 gallons of water) built, and our water pipes, or that portion of them plugged with wood, replaced with lead, all of which work is under way, we shall have a very efficient fire service. We have excavated and finished the cellars under all the officers' houses, and provided good and efficient drains from each of them to the main sewer. We have furnished all the houses and buildings in connection with the prison with necessary ladders, and completed the bath-rooms with bath tubs, &c. We have been able to make up all our own convicts' clothing, including socks, &c. There has been a large amount of work done in the machine shop, the engine received from the St. John Penitentiary having been completely renovated, besides various other jobs connected with the building and machinery. I am in hopes to have the saw mill in operation in a short time. Our chapel has been greatly improved; the partition removed, so that the whole room can be used by each denomination, and the room thoroughly painted. The work was all done by convict labor, under the supervision of the Chaplains.

You will see by the accompanying returns that the work referred to is only a portion of what has been done by convict labor, in connection with the various industries of the place.

Our farm products show a very considerable increase on the previous year, and I have used every means available for advancing this important industry. Last