

Reports, and the events of the last two years have unfortunately afforded convincing proofs of their truth and force.

The total number of prisoners confined in the Gaol in 1865, was 71, and in 1866, 78, Out of this comparatively small number, 14 prisoners, or about one-tenth of the whole number, effected their escapes in each year.

These escapes were investigated into by the Local Inspector, and full reports respecting them were made through the Board to the Government.

The County authorities were called upon by the Government to explain the cause of these frequent escapes, and it is believed that the result has been to awaken the local authorities to the necessity of taking vigorous measures to provide a building which will really serve as a place of safe custody for their prisoners.

WALKERTON.

(County of Bruce.)

The new Gaol at this place was early in the year reported to be ready for occupation. On being examined, however, by the Government Architect, that officer found that there were many great defects in the building, and the Inspectors were consequently unable to recommend that it should be accepted by the Government.

This gave rise to correspondence between the Board and the Provisional County Council, which resulted in the latter taking the necessary steps to remedy the defects in the Gaol building. These facts being reported by the Government Architect to the Board, they at once notified the Provincial Secretary that the Gaol was complete in accordance with the plans approved by the Government, and that there was nothing to prevent its being formally accepted.

These resolutions of the Board were communicated to the Provincial Secretary in June, but owing to other circumstances, the separation of the Counties of Huron and Bruce did not take place during the year 1866.

GENERAL REMARKS RESPECTING GAOLS.

The subjoined Tabular Statement will be interesting as presenting at a glance the total number of commitments made to the Gaols in Upper and Lower Canada from 1859 to 1866, inclusively:—

TABLE shewing the number of Commitments to the Common Gaols in Upper and Lower Canada in each year, from 1859 to 1866.

	1859.	1860.	1861.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.
Upper Canada.....	6,586	6,370	5,671	6,687	6,780	6,361	6,535	6,777
Lower Canada.....	4,545	4,898	5,201	6,277	6,300	6,655	7,198	7,228
Total.....	11,131	11,268	10,872	12,964	13,088	13,016	13,733	14,005

In reference to the above Schedule it should be remembered that it does not give the number of persons who passed through the Gaols, but the number of commitments to Gaol. As the same person may have been sent to gaol twice, thrice, or even oftener during the year, the number of prisoners must of course be considerably less than the number of commitments.

It is noticeable that in Upper Canada the total number of commitments in each of the eight years mentioned (with the exception of 1861), does not vary very much; whereas