

the Penitentiary, but which could not be carried out without the assistance of the Legislature. The following are the changes enumerated in the Report for 1865 :—

1st. Every convict should be made to undergo a certain amount of solitary confinement at the commencement of his imprisonment.

2nd. The convicts should be classified according to their conduct in the Penitentiary by means of the mark system. The advanced classes should receive slight money gratuities.

3rd. Every convict should have it in his power, by steady good conduct, to earn a remission of the stated portion of his term of imprisonment ; or, if a life convict, some other important advantage.

4th. Something should be established in Canada analogous to the "intermediate Prisons," which form, perhaps, the most admirable, as they certainly are the most original feature in that most successful of all modern prison systems, the "Irish Convict System."

An additional year's experience has only strengthened the opinion of the Board as to the necessity of each and all of these changes. But they would more especially urge the necessity of making every effort to carry out without delay the recommendations contained in paragraphs 1st and 3rd. No time should be lost in commencing the construction of the solitary cells as contemplated by the Penitentiary Act itself. The Inspectors do not believe that there is sufficient space within the present walls of the Penitentiary to allow of the construction of the necessary number of solitary cells, probably about 50. Nor are the Inspectors by any means satisfied that it would be desirable, even if it were practicable, to have the solitary cells within the same enclosure as the Penitentiary. The solitary cells would be regarded with much greater terror by prisoners if they were altogether isolated from the rest of the Prison, and formed, as it were, a perfectly distinct and separate Prison. This end can be secured by constructing them on the high ground opposite to the north entrance to the Penitentiary. The site is in every point of view admirable, and presents, from its proximity to the quarries, peculiar facilities for the proposed erection. The Inspectors may here observe, in passing, that they have long felt, as many of their predecessors in office have also done, that the residence of the Chief Executive Officer of the Institution should be placed outside the Penitentiary walls, and they know no more suitable and commanding site for the Warden's residence than the elevated plateau on which they would recommend the erection of the solitary cells.

With reference to the recommendation contained in paragraph No. 3, that every convict should be able, by good conduct and industry in Prison, to earn a remission of a certain limited portion of his sentence, they would merely remark, that probably the simplest way of carrying out this recommendation would be by passing an Act, similar in effect to the Acts known as "Commutation Acts," in the neighbouring States, which, though very recently passed, have already, according to the testimony of the Wardens of the principal State Prisons, produced such satisfactory fruits in those institutions.

REFORMATORY PRISONS.

The Inspectors would respectfully refer to the accompanying Reports of the Wardens of the Reformatory Prisons for all details in reference to the progress of the buildings now being erected at Penetanguishene and St. Vincent de Paul ; and, also for information respecting the general affairs of both those Institutions during the year 1866.

They think it right once more to reiterate their conviction that the laws regulating Prisons for juvenile offenders, should be altered so as to provide :—

1st. That no prisoner over 16 years of age should be sent to a Reformatory Prison.

2nd. That the minimum period of sentence to a Reformatory should be fixed, as a general rule, at from three to five years, according to the age of the culprit.

The Wardens of both Reformatories, as well as the Inspectors, have repeatedly urged the necessity for amending the law in the particulars above mentioned.