

Council and of the Common Council of the City of St. John, to His Excellency the Governor General, on the subject of the imprisonment of "short-term" convicts, in this city and county; also, copy of a Memorial to the Right Honorable the Earl of Dufferin, late Governor General, from the Justices of the City and County, on the same subject; and I am to request you to lay these documents before His Excellency when you have opportunity.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. W. FRITH, *County Secretary.*

Hon. Secretary of State, Ottawa.

*From Municipal Council and Common Council of St. John.*

To His EXCELLENCY SIR JOHN DOUGLAS SUTHERLAND CAMPBELL, Marquis of Lorne K.T., K.G.C.M.G., Governor General of Canada, &c., &c., &c.

The Joint Memorial of the Council of the Municipality of the City and County of St. John, and of the Common Council of the City of St. John, in the Province of New Brunswick.—Humbly sheweth:

That your Memorialists are desirous of placing before Your Excellency the state of facts connected with the administration of Criminal Justice in the said City and County of St. John, under the laws providing for the punishment of offenders sentenced by the Supreme and County Courts to imprisonment for periods of less than two years, commonly known as "short term prisoners." 1. Your Memorialists beg leave to refer to the Memorial of the Justices of the Peace of the said City and County on the same subject to Your Excellency's predecessor, Lord Dufferin, dated the 18th day of January, A.D., 1875, a copy of which Memorialists beg to submit herewith. The claims made on behalf of the said City and County in that Memorial, have been the subject of frequent negotiations between the representatives of the said City and County and different members of Her Majesty's Privy Council for Canada, have been from time to time favorably entertained, and have never been withdrawn or satisfactorily disposed of.

2. At the date of said Memorial, and subsequently up to the time of the opening of the Dorchester Penitentiary, the claims of this City and County were so far recognized, as that special provision was made by the Parliament of Canada for the reception of such "short term prisoners" into the "St. John Penitentiary," formerly known as the Provincial Penitentiary of New Brunswick.

3. Since the opening of the Dorchester Penitentiary, all such convicts are sent to and confined in the common gaol of the city and county of St. John; the St. John Penitentiary having been entirely dismantled, and there being no other House of Correction or prison available in the said city and county, or in the Province of New Brunswick.

4. The said gaol having been intended and built for the confinement of debtors and persons charged with crime and awaiting trial only, is comparatively small and totally unfit to be used as a place of punishment for convicts; the number of cells or rooms is only fourteen; the average number of inmates before the county was deprived of sending its minor criminals to the penitentiary was 25, while the average is now 60, rising at times to 70 and upwards.

5. It will thus be apparent to Your Excellency that the gaol must be, as in fact it very frequently is, entirely overcrowded; while, as there are no means for putting the inmates to hard labor, they become idle and disorderly, and crime is rather promoted than repressed by their confinement in such a building.

6. This condition of the gaol and of the law relating to "short-term" prisoners has been the subject of numerous presentments of grand juries; and has also been frequently brought before the attention of the Provincial Government and Authorities by your memorialists, and in other ways.

7. As yet, however, nothing has been done either by Your Excellency's Government or the Provincial Government of New Brunswick to remedy the evils to which