

freely; a light in the cell; books from the library; and employment less rough or penal. The punishment for breaches of rule and discipline,—which chiefly consist in acts of insubordination, quarreling, planning escapes, laziness and violation of silence, are total or partial loss of remission time, according to the gravity of the offence; deprivation of good conduct mark on clothing; reduction in class; confinement in dark cell, not to exceed six consecutive nights; low diet, not to exceed nine consecutive meals; deprivation of light; coarse work; confinement in the dungeon with such diet as the Surgeon shall prescribe as sufficient, regard being had to the constitution of the prisoner and the duration of his confinement; corporal punishment with the sanction of the Surgeon. The dungeon and the cats are resorted to only in extreme cases, and when other means of correction are found to be inefficacious.

All reports against convicts are entered and signed by the officers who make them, in a book provided for that purpose, which is examined by the Inspector at each of his visits.

It is the duty of the Warden to enquire into every report made against convicts, to hear the evidence in their presence, and to award such punishment, if the offence be proved, as it will justify; but, in no case, to be inflicted until one day will have elapsed after the report has been received.

A record of all punishments is kept and is embodied in the statistics furnished from each Penitentiary to the Inspector for the Annual Report to the Minister of Justice. In this connection I may remark that it was found necessary to use the cats in the Penitentiaries of Kingston and St. Vincent de Paul, on some occasions during 1876. This was owing to the fact that the discipline in the latter institution had become sadly impaired, and under the administration of the late Warden, whose condition of health did not permit him to enforce its observance. The consequence was, a spirit of insubordination which more than once developed into incipient revolt, an almost total disregard of the rules and of all authority were evinced by the convicts for some time after the present Warden, Dr. Duchesneau, entered upon the duties of the administration. It was sought to check this evil by moral suasion and mild means, but it had taken too deep root and was rapidly extending. No other alternative remained than to grapple with it vigorously and determinedly. This was done. A few of the ringleaders was marked out, and having been first admonished, without effect, received corporal punishment, with a view to their improvement, and to admonish their less guilty associates what they, too, might expect if they did not change their course. This disagreeable but enforced experiment was effectual. Order, obedience and discipline were established. Before, however, this had been accomplished, it was found necessary, owing to the overcrowded state of the prison, to remove a number of the convicts to Kingston Penitentiary, from St. Vincent de Paul. They carried with them the like bad disposition to set regulations and discipline at defiance. It consequently became the painful duty of the Warden, Mr. Creighton, to have recourse to the same unpleasant means of persuading the newcomers to conform to the rules which Dr. Duchesneau had employed, and with the like result. They became convinced that the Warden was master of the situation, and they succumbed. I would remark, here, it is fatal to the privilege and authority of the chief executive officer of a Penitentiary, and therefore to the success of his administration, to manifest any weakness or indecision of character, or to allow convicts to see or think they have gained the upper hand.

A Warden can effectually maintain his authority and influence without being a mere martinet,—a man of iron will and rule, and nothing more. Such an officer may succeed in enforcing the most rigid discipline; he may drill them to so great an extent as to convert them into mere automata, or animated pieces of mechanism, but he will also succeed in nurturing all the bad passions within their breasts. He may subdue the outer, but he will certainly fail to soften or reform the inner man. A Warden's qualification should combine a fair education, good judgment, sound common sense, experience of life, and especially of men of the criminal class, even temper, a high sense of justice and self-respect, firmness of character coupled with a humane disposition and probity in a very high degree.