

You also said :—

"I recommended the appointment of a practical and experienced farmer and gardener a year since; no action was taken. I still consider such an officer indispensable. Without him, the land will not be well cultivated or the convicts properly trained in farming."

But little remains to be added.

In my own humble opinion, and from my experience, I consider that the Department of Public Works is more responsible for the discipline, custody and reformation of convicts, economy and sanitary condition—indeed, for everything that pertains to the good management of a penitentiary—than is the Department of Justice. Should the attempted outbreak in December last have proved successful, who would have been to blame? The public would naturally saddle the responsibility, first upon the Warden and officials of the prison, and next with the Minister of Justice and his staff; the Public Works Department, not being known in the matter, escaping censure altogether. This, it is patent, is most unfair.

All the onus connected with the insecurity of this prison must justly be charged to the Department of Public Works. To instance this: should the lock of an important door be broken it is required of me to report this to you in Ottawa, that you may request the Department of Public Works there to authorize their agent in Winnipeg to examine into the matter and report upon the same. If, in such a trivial affair, so much unnecessary machinery has to be set in motion before action can be taken, how can it be expected that matters of greater importance can be more summarily dealt with. But one conclusion is obvious. I would strongly urge that greater powers be vested in the agent of the Public Works Department in this Province, in order that the many difficulties under which we now labor, especially in regard to matters of repairs, may be removed. If the same rule continues, the agent of the Department should be instructed to make an annual estimate (after consultation with the Warden) of the works and repairs required to be undertaken during the ensuing year.

No appropriation appears to have been made for the improvement of the grounds surrounding the prison, although the matter was recommended in my previous Reports. The defective brick jambs of the cells reported last year, have not received any attention, and many of the bricks can easily be removed by hand. These cells you visited in June last, in company with the Deputy Minister of Justice. An iron bar extending the length of each range of cells, with a projection opposite each cell, has been placed in position; the working of a lever doubly locks the cells and affords additional security. Water has been introduced into each cell, which obviates the unlocking of cells after the proper locking up hour. These improvements are of greater importance than they would appear upon first consideration.

The drains have given some trouble, but not so much as in previous years.

I would recommend that the Department of Public Works make provision for the materials necessary in the construction of two additional guards' cottages, and a green house for the purpose of raising bedding-plants, &c., for the kitchen garden. This is work at which the convicts can be advantageously employed.

FARM AND GARDEN.

I beg to draw your attention to the satisfactory balance sheet *re* farm and garden. After repeated applications to the Department of Public Works, their agent furnished me with three different sets of plans prepared in Ottawa, for a root house in connection with this prison. Finding these unsuitable to the site chosen, in conjunction with Mr. Lecourt, a purchase was made of the only cedar logs then in the market. With these for roofing and studding, &c., a suitable house was erected. Had this not been accomplished, no provision would have been made for the storing of roots. The loss of former years was in this way prevented. I understand that up