

Recapitulation.

Kingston penitentiary.....	586
St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary.....	350
Dorchester do	169
Manitoba do	71
British Columbia do	73
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Total number of convicts 30th June, 1891.....	1,249
do do do 1890.....	1,251
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Total decrease.....	2
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In the past year, ended 30th June last, 414 convicts were received in the several penitentiaries, as against 431 the preceding year; while the number discharged during those two years, respectively, was 416 and 348. The number of prisoners liberated, last year, is 68 in excess of those set free in 1889-90, when the number of commitments was 17 more than in 1890-91.

The number of deaths, in all the penitentiaries, 16, out of a daily average population of 1,239,—a little over 1 per cent—is remarkably low, when it is taken into account that more than half the number is made up of those who died from the effects of insanity, old age and of shattered constitutions brought into the penitentiaries. That great care and attention are exercised with regard to the health of the prisoners, and in all that conduces thereto, such as wholesome diet, cleanliness, ventilation, drainage, proper clothing, &c., is proved by the reports of the surgeons, and, especially, by the mortality statistics.

Only three escapes, from the five penitentiaries, took place during the year. Taking into account that, the natural desire for liberty and the ways and means to carry it into effect, occupy the minds of most convicts, in their hours of wakefulness, it requires constant and unflinching vigilance and care to detect and frustrate the numerous plans and devices for escape concocted, from day to day. It is due to the officers of the several staffs, who are charged with the safe-keeping of the prisoners and the maintenance of discipline, to say that, with very few exceptions, they perform their duties to the best of their ability.

The total number of female convicts, on 30th June last, was 24, being 2 more than were on hand, at the close of the fiscal year 1889-90. Manitoba broke the former record by contributing 1 to this two dozen frail ones, now serving their terms in Kingston penitentiary. The crimes for which most of those women have been convicted were not of a serious nature and did not indicate any marked degree of depravity. This fact coupled with the few—compared with the whole population—who have come under the ban of the law as convicts reflects credit upon the female portion of the community and should give pleasure to every genuine philanthropist and true Canadian.

Even the small decrease of 2, in the total number of convicts in the Dominion, as noted above, is a matter, to the right-minded, for rejoicing. It argues a very slight criminal tendency and great respect for law and order, on the part of the masses. Presumptive proof is afforded that intemperance does not prevail to any very marked