

## SAULT STE MARIE,

*(District of Algoma).*

This place still continues without a Gaol. The utter and disgraceful inadequacy of the miserable building used as a lock-up (in the absence of a Gaol), have been again and again represented in the reports of the Inspectors, and have been the subject of earnest and reiterated complaint, on the part of the District Judge and of the Sheriff.

The outlying District of Algoma having no Municipal organization, there were no local authorities clothed with power to erect a Gaol, and the duty of doing so devolved upon the Department of Public Works. That Department may possibly be able to afford some satisfactory explanation of the causes which have prevented for so many years the erection of a Gaol at this place.

In their Report for 1865, the Inspectors stated that the Department of Public Works submitted to them in the month of June, in that year, a plan for a Gaol at the Sault. That plan was immediately examined by the Board, reported on, and returned by them to the Department whence it originated.

The Inspectors are informed that during the past year the walls of the Gaol have been put up, and that the building will be roofed in as soon as building operations are commenced this year at the Sault.

## ST. CATHARINES.

*(County of Lincoln).*

This fine new Gaol was completed in the early part of the year. In the month of May the Board received the Official Report of the Government Architect, that the building was completed in accordance with the plans of the Board, and the fact was forthwith communicated to the Government. The new Gaol is substantial and well built, and forms a striking contrast to the old County Gaol at Niagara.

## STRATFORD.

*(County of Perth).*

This Gaol has been repeatedly and strongly condemned by the Board, as being insecure and in other respects seriously defective. So far back as 1864 the Board took the unusual course, as mentioned in their Report for the year 1865, of recommending the Government to condemn the Gaol as unfit for use, and to compel the local authorities to erect a proper prison. The Government, accordingly, called upon the County Council to show cause why they had not proceeded sooner to comply with the requirements of the Statute.

During the month of August, a malignant form of typhoid fever presented itself in the Gaol, and several of the prisoners were attacked with the disease. The turnkey and two others died.

The prevalence of this formidable epidemic in the Gaol was, no doubt, attributable, in a very great degree if not entirely, to the defective ventilation and drainage of the building. The presence of such a disease in their midst caused considerable alarm in the town of Stratford, and forcibly fixed the attention of the public upon the manifold defects of the Gaol. On receiving intelligence of the presence of this disease in the Gaol, the Local Inspector, resident at Toronto, at once proceeded to Stratford and visited the Gaol. He also had an interview with the local authorities, urged them at once to communicate with the Government on the subject and recommended that during the prevalence of the malady as few as possible of the vagrant class should be sent to the Prison. To the great attention and skill of Dr. Shaver, the Surgeon of the Gaol, may, under Divine Providence, be ascribed the speedy check given to this fearful visitation. Owing, partly, no doubt, to the visitation of this formidable epidemic, and partly to the action of the Government already referred to, the County authorities invited plans for a new Gaol. The Inspectors have good reason for thinking that, before the close of 1867, a new Gaol at Stratford will be far advanced to completion.

## WELLAND.

*(County of Welland).*

The utterly insecure and dangerous state of this Gaol has been explained in former