

In those days riots and mutinies were of common occurrence, all of which, however, were successfully met by the officers in charge. The last of the Fenian prisoners to be released was John Quinn, Company "A" 7th regiment I.R.A., who was liberated on the first of April, 1872.

During the term of office of the late Warden Creighton, important and humane changes in methods of management were instituted, and found to work beneficially. The present Warden, Dr. Lavell, has also instituted many and important reforms; and to these gentlemen is ascribed much of the credit for the present advanced standing which this Institution occupies amongst the Penal Institutions of the world.

The Kingston Institution at one time received the adjudged criminals from both Ontario and Quebec. This continued until the building of St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary, Quebec, when a portion of the convict population was removed to the new Institution. The date of the opening of the Quebec Prison was the 20th May, 1873, and 120 convicts were taken thither from Kingston by steamer. No trouble occurred and they were all safely locked up in their new habitation without accident of any kind.

Before the building of the Quebec Penitentiary, the population consisted of about nine hundred convicts. The population to-day is in the neighborhood of five hundred and fifty. About thirty of these are women, gathered from all parts of the Dominion, Kingston possessing the only Female Penitentiary in Canada. Convicts becoming insane while serving a term in any of our Penitentiaries are also removed to Kingston, where a building especially adapted for their care has been constructed.

THE PRISON OF ISOLATION.

Under a new system lately introduced, the incorrigibles from the other

Penitentiaries are removed to the Kingston Institution, where a building specially suited for their reception and confinement has been prepared. This building is known as the "Prison of Isolation," and the methods therein employed are entirely new to our Canadian criminals. The prisoners are never permitted outside of their cells, excepting for daily exercise, which is taken in an isolated portion of the yard inaccessible to the other convicts, and under the eyes of an officer. Strict silence is the rule here; the diet is not so liberal as that given to other convicts. Their correspondence is also curtailed; they are allowed to receive no luxuries of any description, and each is given his work to do in his own cell. There are at present about twenty convicts confined in this ward. A number of these have been sent from Dorchester (N. B.) Penitentiary, in which prison they were thoroughly incorrigible. In this new Institution they are easily managed.

This building was begun in June 1889. It is constructed entirely of cut stone, brick and iron, is 209 feet long by 40 feet wide, is three stories high and contains 114 cells. All the work in connection with it has been performed by convict labor, and the result reflects great credit on the penitentiary authorities. The work has a completeness and finish seldom seen in a place of the kind. The dimensions of the cells are as follows: six of them 12 feet by 11 feet 4 inches; six of them 10 feet by 11 feet 4 inches; twelve, 9 feet 10 inches by 11 feet 4 inches; ninety, 7 feet 11 inches by 11 feet 4 inches. The ceilings throughout are 11 feet from the floor, and the corridors are six feet wide.

The front of the cells consists almost entirely of chrome steel grating, which is so hard that it is almost impossible to cut it. The cells are all doubly locked. The locks have been manufactured in the penitentiary. Each door is fastened by a key-lock, and the entire range is locked by a