

when a prisoner is sentenced to imprisonment for any crime, he is at once set to work; an account is immediately opened with him in the books of the Prison; he is charged a certain sum to pay well for his board and lodging, and gets credit for the value of his earnings. At the end of his time, if he conducts himself properly, I think he gets when leaving, whatever balance may appear at the credit of his account. If his behaviour is not approved of by the proper Officers of the Prison, he only gets a portion or perhaps none; but he is kept constantly at profitable work, and is obliged to do as much as he ought to do, that is a good day's work, and is not allowed time to form plans, or plot mischief with his fellows.

I have taken the liberty, Gentlemen, of calling your attention to the system of Prison discipline generally, and to the evils which it has entailed, and will continue to entail, if not corrected, on society, in the hope of enlisting your valuable services in improving it; and further, of calling your attention to the views as nearly as I can describe them, of Mr. Justice Draper, who presided in this County at the last Assizes. That eminent and highly-gifted individual has devoted an enormous amount of labor to the subject. Whenever he has an opportunity, he endeavours to press on the attention of the County Authorities the necessity of action in the matter, and by every means in his power, he advocates in an able manner, the cause which he has so much at heart. But as he expressed himself to me and others, when we did ourselves the honor of waiting on him, he feels sometimes discouraged, and feels his cause almost hopeless, by the apathy and indifference with which it is received. He sees that a great many cases come before him and the other judges, where the crime, not deserving the Penitentiary, he has no alternative but to send the party back to the Prison, a thing which under the present system, he wishes to avoid, convinced as he is, that no good can possibly accrue to the Prisoner, and that much evil must eventually be the result to society, in consequence of the manner in which his time will be spent whilst in confinement. To do away with this crying evil, it was proposed that in connection with the Gaol, another establishment should exist, where work, (I mean profitable work,) could be carried on; that such a system of discipline should be established as must in the generality of cases, produce a good result, a system where the criminal would be taught, and made to understand, that his own good, as well as the good of society, was the cause of his being there. Where information can be imparted, books upon all subjects, calculated to make him a more industrious man than he was before, could be come at, and every other step be taken to improve his mind and develop his talents; it may be said, the expense is too great we cannot afford it. Gentlemen, Judge Draper anticipated this objection, and said, if it was made, it was quite practicable to get three, four or five Counties to join in the expense of erection, because that would be the only expense; the work of the inmates should and would support the establishment, and ought, where five Counties united pay the interest of the outlay. The Judge intimated, that if he could get his views taken hold of by the people, he had no doubt of being able to get an Act passed, authorizing whatever steps may be necessary, and that he had no doubt as to the wishes of the Government on the matter; that in fact everything would be done to facilitate, encourage, and carry out the plan. Recollect now, that I am advocating a profitable, a self-paying establishment; I want no more idleness, we have had plenty of it, I wish to make every inmate do a good day's work, and I want to convert the value of that to money, to be used for the good of the place; and surely a good day's work is worth three times the cost of support. Suppose now that five Counties, and that you fix on Brantford, or any other place, as a centre, (I am not so selfish as to say it must be there,) but say Brantford as a centre, now Hamilton, Simcoe, and Woodstock, are all about equi-distant, say about 25 miles, and Cayuga about 28, if these, or any other five, took it up, (and I mention these because they are really well placed,) and gave the