

object in a convict dress is to stamp the prisoner with some mark affording ready detection in event of escape. Knickerbockers with colored stockings, I think, would have been an improvement in this direction.

I would like also to see the grading of the convicts fall in with the class system that has been in vogue here since the organization of the institution, *i.e.*, the recognition of three classes in the following manner:—

On admission—3rd class, and to wear red, black and grey.

On promotion, after one month's good conduct (free from any offence)—2nd class, and to wear black and grey check.

Promotion after a further period of two months' good conduct—1st class, and to wear plain grey.

I am pleased to note that the Minister has approved of the style of the officers' uniform (as in use here) as submitted by me, and has directed its adoption throughout the Penitentiary service. I feel sure that a beneficial effect will follow.

Respecting the Federal insane patients who have been placed in the care of this institution, I would say that under the care of Surgeon Sutherland they have been well looked after, but the numbers continue on the steady increase.

Remaining 30th June, 1889: Males, 27; females, 8; total, 35.

Remaining 30th June, 1890: Males, 28; females, 11; total, 39. Three deaths have occurred, less than what naturally might have been expected.

Several improvements have been made in the prison buildings and quarters generally. A covered passage-way has been constructed to connect the hospital and chapels with the steam laundry, completing a covered means of communication between all the principal buildings, *viz.*, main prison and offices, hospital, chapels and laundry. In addition to the convenience derived, the chances of escape are materially lessened.

The main part of the prison has been supplied with pipes, hose, reels, &c., for fire protection, and the work is nearly completed. This is a requirement needed in all large buildings, even under the most favourable circumstances, constituted by the greatest watchfulness and care. Some system for fire protection is still wanted for the quarters, and this has been illustrated within the last few months. I refer to the late fire which destroyed the wood sheds at the quarters of the Steward and the Hospital Overseer. These sheds have been re-built by convict labour, under the supervision of Carpenter Instructor Puigh, and are now practically completed.

A picket fence is being constructed round all the quarters, giving a neat appearance to the reserve and affording a degree of privacy to each officer before impossible.

A garden of about eight acres has been fenced with barbed wire and top-pole. This improved protection over the old-time "snake fence" is much appreciated by those interested, and the enclosed space is well stocked with an abundant crop of garden produce.

The cottages built for the Chaplains and Surgeon are now completed, and occupied by the respective officers. These quarters have been fitted up with hot water heating apparatus and surrounded by a fence, and they are now most desirable residences.

The quarters—a log house, brick veneered—occupied by the Deputy Warden and Chief Keeper, is being repaired by prison labour, and put in a more habitable condition.

Improved bath, W. C. and urinal facilities are required, and a provision for this will be proposed for next year's estimates. Separate closets in each cell, as suggested by me, would be a great improvement to the sanitary condition of the prison.

To refer again to the Indian convicts, I would mention that they readily adapt themselves to the great change of life which they are necessarily subject to, and they pick up very quickly the trades taught them, especially tailoring and carpentering. In school they are very attentive, and make excellent progress, which is more than surprising when one remembers that they have to wrestle with a language foreign to them from the very start.