

## COST OF PRISONS, ETC.

**G**REAT difficulty was experienced by the Royal Commission in getting information about the expenditure by the Municipalities, the Provinces, and the Dominion, on account of these institutions. So far as facts about such expenditure have been ascertained, appropriations in 1891 from the public funds for **penitentiaries, jails, insane asylums, reformatories, alms-houses, and charitable institutions,** amounted to \$2,258,612.

The Province of Ontario furnishes fullest returns. The public accounts for 1894, and the latest accounts of counties, townships, cities, towns, and villages, show the annual expenditure in the Province for the administration of justice was \$1,412,294.

The net cost to the Province of the **Central Prison and two reformatories** was \$116,025.

**Asylums for the Insane** cost the Province \$490,326 above receipts.

The amount paid by the Provincial Government in 1894, for hospitals and charities, and the expenditure of the counties, cities, towns, and villages for the support of the poor and other charities, aggregated \$471,219.

The outlay for repairs and improvements to prisons and asylums amounted to \$335,000, which might probably be considered with the foregoing expenditures.

There might also be added the annual interest on the cost (over \$5,000,000) of the **prisons, jails, court-houses, asylums, etc.**

According to census of 1891, the population of Ontario is 2,114,321, and the population of the Dominion, 4,833,239. If the other provinces of the Dominion expend for like purposes in the same ratio, according to their population, then the amount so expended annually in all the provinces, Ontario included, is \$5,691,712.

In addition to the above there is to be considered the cost of the **penitentiaries** of the Dominion. According to the statistical Year Book of 1893, their net cost for the year was \$336,473. Adding these sums, it is seen that the annual cost to the country of the institutions named is \$6,028,195. It will not be an extravagant estimate to say that at least one-half this expenditure is fairly chargeable to the liquor habit and the liquor traffic. On this basis, then, the liquor traffic entails upon the country for **penitentiaries, jails, asylums, reformatories, alms-houses,** and like institutions, and for the administration of justice, an annual expenditure of \$3,014,097.—From "*Facts of the Case.*"

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